



Student Name:

Class Period:

Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on José Francisco Ruiz. Then, answer questions about it.

José Francisco Ruiz 1783–1840

Colonel José Francisco Ruiz was one of two native Texan signatories of the Texas Declaration of Independence. A former Mexican Army officer and an expert on native Texas tribes, he fought against Spain during the Mexican War of Independence. Then, in the 1830s, Ruiz risked everything again to liberate Texas.

Born in San Antonio in 1783, Ruiz began his career as an educator and public litigator in 1803. During the Mexican War for Independence, he became a rebel against Spain by joining the Gutiérrez-Magee Expedition. When the rebels were later defeated at the Battle of Medina in 1813, Ruiz fled to Louisiana, where he became a trader with the Comanches and the Lipans of northern Texas.

Ruiz returned to Texas after Mexican independence in 1821, where he served the Mexican government as an envoy to the Apaches and Comanches. In 1830, he became a military commander of a fort on the Brazos River, one of the posts intended to contain illegal immigration from the United States.

Ruiz retired from the army in 1833 and devoted himself to private business before joining the cause of Texas independence. He signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836, and, after Santa Anna's defeat, became San Antonio's senator in the first Texas Congress. He died in 1840, having guided Texas from colonial possession to independent republic.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on José Francisco Ruiz. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What role did José Francisco Ruiz serve in the Mexican government?
2. What is noteworthy about Ruiz as a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Making Inferences.** What seems to connect Ruiz's fighting for independence against Spain and again against Mexico?