



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 Juan Jose Maria Erasmo de Jesus Seguín. Then, answer questions about it.

### Juan Jose Maria Erasmo de Jesus Seguín 1782–1857

Erasmo Seguín lived through one of the most tumultuous periods of Texas history.

Born in 1782, Seguín entered public office in 1807 as postmaster of San Antonio, a position he held nearly continuously until 1835. During those years, Seguín established himself as a leading player in the political scene and held several prominent positions before and after Mexico gained independence from Spain, including as alcalde of San Antonio.

Believing that Anglo American settlers would help the region prosper, Seguín advocated in the Mexican congress for the colonization of Texas. He was instrumental in helping Stephen F. Austin carry out an empresario contract and became close friends with the Austin family. Seguín was the only delegate from Texas at the Mexican congress that drafted the Constitution of 1824, where he fought for the interests of San Antonio and the Anglo settlers in the area.

Removed from office at the outset of the Texas Revolution, Seguín retreated to Casa Blanca, his ranch near present-day Floresville. During the Revolution, Casa Blanca became a source of provisions for the Texas army. Though Seguín was later reimbursed for the loss of stock and supplies, the ranch was significantly depleted, and Texan rustlers continued to steal his cattle into the forties. He spent his later years trying to restore his estate to its former glory and died there in 1857.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Juan Jose Maria Erasmo de Jesus Seguín. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What role did Juan Jose Maria Erasmo de Jesus Seguín serve for decades in San Antonio?
2. Who did Seguín help secure an empresario contract?

**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. **Taking a Position.** If you were Seguín, how would you feel about your treatment by Texans both during and after the Revolution?