



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 Lucille Bishop Smith. Then, answer questions about it.

Lucille Bishop Smith 1892–1985

Starting with a single recipe at a church fundraiser, Lucille Smith eventually launched a food empire at a time when Black women's cooking was not recognized or rewarded.

Born in 1892 in Crockett, Texas, Smith demonstrated early prowess as a chef when Booker T. Washington praised her dishes during a school visit. She graduated from Huston College in Austin in 1912 and, interested in training cooks, she became the vocational coordinator for Fort Worth's public schools. In 1928, she took on management of the kitchens at the exclusive Camp Waldemar outside Kerrville, which she would lead with her chef husband, Ulysses, for decades.

In 1937, Smith created the first college department in commercial foods and technology at Prairie View A&M University. She published her first cookbook shortly thereafter, and, in the 1940s, developed Lucille's All-Purpose Hot Roll Mix. The first of its kind, it established Smith's national reputation, leading to a lucrative deal with American Airlines and friendships with Eleanor Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, and boxer Joe Louis.

At age eighty-two, Smith incorporated her business as Lucille B. Smith's Fine Foods to market her brands. Often called Texas's first African American businesswoman, Smith died in 1985. Her legacies include the Houston restaurant Lucille's, opened by her great-grandsons in 2012, and the 2019 museum exhibition in Prairie View celebrating her life and work.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Lucille Bishop Smith. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Name the two places Lucille Bishop Smith worked before going to Prairie View A&M.
2. What product established Smith's national reputation?

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.** In the context of the episode, what does the word "lucrative" mean?