



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 Lulu Belle Madison White. Then, answer questions about it.

### Lulu Belle Madison White 1900–1957

Teacher and civil rights activist Lulu Belle White was born in 1900 in the East Texas town of Elmo.

After graduating from Prairie View College, she married Houston businessman and longtime NAACP member Julius White. In the 1930s, she left teaching to work fulltime for the NAACP, and, in 1943, became its first paid female executive secretary.

In 1945, White enlisted Heman Marion Sweatt to be the plaintiff in the challenge to the “separate but equal” doctrine at The University of Texas law school, which created a vital precedent for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

White became director of statewide NAACP branches and, later, a national field worker. With fellow activist Juanita Craft, White traveled throughout Texas and beyond, organizing new NAACP chapters, rejuvenating old ones, raising funds, and investigating miscarriages of justice. Both White and Craft were dynamic speakers and imposing figures. Working through church networks, labor unions, and other groups, they mobilized Blacks to fight for voting rights, desegregation, and equal pay.

Assertive and fearless, White was a force of nature in her opposition to Jim Crow. “We cannot sit idly by and expect things to come to us,” she asserted. “We must go out and get them.” Shortly before her death, in 1957, the national NAACP established the Lulu White Freedom Fund in her honor.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Lulu Belle Madison White. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. In what roles did Lulu Belle Madison White serve during her time working for the NAACP?
2. What specific issues does the episode mention that White fought for?

**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.** The episode says that White was “assertive and fearless.” Why do you think those qualities were important in her success working for civil rights?