



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 Ruthe Lewin Winegarten. Then, answer questions about it.

Ruthe Lewin Winegarten 1929–2004

Ruthe Winegarten was a pioneer in documenting Texas women's history. Her tireless research ensured that Texan women's voices were heard, recorded, and valued.

Born in Dallas in 1929, Winegarten developed a passion for activism at an early age. She pursued a PhD at The University of Texas at Dallas, but she soon left school to contribute directly to the growing field of women's history with her own work.

Shortly after moving to Austin in 1978, Winegarten was hired as research director and curator of the Texas Women's History Project, a sweeping initiative designed to increase public awareness of women's contributions to Texas history. She and her staff attacked the task with vigor, collecting biographical information on nearly 600 women and cataloguing thousands of related artifacts. The project's success strengthened Winegarten's passion for uncovering untold stories.

Over the next several years, Winegarten gathered oral histories of thousands of Texan women, publishing twenty works documenting the previously unheard experiences of Black women and Tejanas in the state. She received numerous awards for her work and, in 2003, was elected a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association.

Winegarten died in 2004. Reflecting on her life and work, she said, "One way I could empower people was to try and write their history. Because when you deprive people of their history, you deprive them of their power."

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Ruthe Lewin Winegarten. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What major project did Ruthe Winegarten direct?
2. Name three of Winegarten's accomplishments in the field of women's history.

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.** Explain what Winegarten meant when she said, "when you deprive people of their history, you deprive them of their power."