



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 Lorenzo de Zavala. Then, answer questions about it.

### Lorenzo de Zavala 1788–1836

Born in Yucatan in 1788, Lorenzo de Zavala dedicated much of his life to fighting oppression. That was certainly true when his former ally, Santa Anna, established a centralized regime suppressing Mexican Federalism. De Zavala did the only thing he could to weaken the leader's iron grip: he helped bring about the Texas Revolution.

De Zavala's political experience and reputation as a principled fighter made him an ideal ally for the Texas cause. Earlier in life, he was jailed for criticizing Spanish rule over Mexico. And after Mexico's independence was established in 1821, he helped write the new country's constitution.

During his time in Mexico, de Zavala held many elected and appointed offices. But in 1834, de Zavala's allegiance would shift north. That's when Santa Anna's consolidation of power grew strong. De Zavala resigned in protest and headed to Texas.

De Zavala's new loyalty to Texas was complete. He signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, helped write the Texas Constitution, and served as the Republic's first vice president.

In October of 1836, ill health forced him to step away from public life. A month later, on a near freezing day in November, de Zavala's rowboat, with him in it, overturned in Buffalo Bayou. Zavala developed pneumonia from which he never recovered. The hero who helped secure Texas independence was laid to rest in a family cemetery near the San Jacinto Battleground.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Lorenzo de Zavala. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What position did Lorenzo de Zavala hold in the new Texas Republic?
2. Why did Lorenzo de Zavala come to oppose Santa Anna's government?

**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.** What do you think was de Zavala's most important contribution to the cause for Texas independence? Why?