



Texas Originals **Curriculum Guide**

Overview

Texas Originals, developed by Humanities Texas and Houston Public Media, is a radio series profiling individuals who have had a profound influence on Texas history and culture, many of whom are featured in the seventh-grade Texas history TEKS. Episodes can be found [online](#).

This curriculum from Humanities Texas provides activities and lessons to integrate *Texas Originals* into the classroom with expectations for reading, writing, and using accepted social studies conventions and practices. Spanish translations of transcripts from seasons 1 and 2 are now available.



Introduction To Learning Activities

The *Texas Originals* curriculum contains two distinct types of learning activities—Meet the Originals and Full Lessons.

Meet the Originals

These activities are intended to be used as part of a larger lesson or activity. They are excellent introductions to both the *Texas Originals* material and format in anticipation of assigning a Full Lesson Activity. Each “Meet the Originals” activity contains the written script of an episode and three unique questions related to that episode. They can be used for:

- **Warmups**
Start class by having students listen to an episode while following along with the included written transcript. Students can then answer the three questions.
- **Lecture Supplements**
Break up lectures by playing an episode as students listen and read along with the included written transcript. Included questions can be used to check for comprehension or to foster conversation between partners or within the larger classroom group.
- **Transitions**
Introduce a new historical actor in your lectures or review an important person’s contributions by having students complete a “Meet the Originals” activity at a transitional point. The transcripts can be used to make connections between historical actors and explore commonalities and differences.

Full Lessons

These activities include full traditional lesson plans for activities anticipated to take at least one complete class day. Full Lessons are best used as culmination or review.

- **Write Your Own Texas Originals Script**
Students are asked to examine the life of someone who has made an important contribution to Texas history and write a short radio script based on the methods used by Humanities Texas writers. Students are challenged to synthesize research from multiple sources and write a compelling story made for a specific medium. This activity can be customized to ask students to consider either how individuals have shaped Texas history at specific points,

such as the Texas Revolution, or more broadly around topics such as civil rights. Students can also consider how marginalized groups have contributed to Texas history across time.

- **Dinner Party Discussions**

Students evaluate and compare the contributions of individuals to Texas history by inviting three guests to a dinner party. This activity requires students to select three people from the same time period, same profession, or sharing some other trait to identify and evaluate their individual contributions to Texas history. Students must compare those individuals by determining a commonality between the three and defending that choice. Students are challenged to describe the individuals and create questions they would like to ask the guests related to their role in Texas history, as well as questions the guests might ask each other.



Support Documents

Reference guides for teachers and students.

- **TEKS Correlation**

A stand-alone reference guide to all knowledge and skills TEKS met through this curriculum, this document lists all individuals featured as Originals and indicates those individuals specifically called out in the TEKS. It also provides suggestions for grouping individuals by subject and time-period. These groupings can be used in Full Lessons.

- **Online Resources**

Intended as a guide for students, this reference list provides a starting point for reliable sources for online research. This guide is particularly useful for the Write Your Own *Texas Originals* Script lesson, but can also be used for Dinner Party Discussions to extend the lesson to include independent student research.



TEKS

All *Texas Originals* lesson types support a number of social studies and ELA skills TEKS. For quick reference, they are listed by number below. Full details can be found in the TEKS Correlation document.

Social Studies:

113.19.24.A, B, E; 113.19.26.A—C

ELA:

110.23.1.A, B, D; 110.23.3; 110.23.5.A, E—I; 110.23.6.A—D, G, H

Depending upon the individual, or group of individuals selected, the following social studies knowledge TEKS can be fulfilled:

113.19.2.B, C, E, F; 113.19.3.A—C; 113.19.4.A, B; 113.19.5.A—C; 113.19.6.A—D;
113.19.7.A—D; 113.19.8.A, B; 113.19.9.A, B; 113.19.10.A, B; 113.19.11.B; 113.19.12.A;
113.19.14.A; 113.19.15.B; 113.19.16.A, B; 113.19.17.A, B; 113.19.18.A—D