



## 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 Andy Adams. Then, answer questions about it.

**Andy Adams**  
**1859–1935**

Born in Indiana in 1859, writer Andy Adams lived the cowboy life on the Texas plains. He later rendered those experiences in fiction to set Americans straight about life in the West.

Adams arrived in South Texas in 1881 and began rounding up livestock to send to Kansas. Through his work, he became fascinated with cowboys—their speech, culture, and work habits.

In the 1890s, Adams moved on to Colorado to pursue mining opportunities. While there, he attended a production of the play *A Texas Steer* and was offended by its wild-and-woolly portrayal of Texas cowboys. Cowboys were not yahoos in Adams's mind, but practical workingmen who relied more on their wit than their guns. He began writing stories to make his point.

In 1903, Adams published his first novel, *The Log of a Cowboy*, which recounts a trail drive from Brownsville to Montana. Adams's focus was not the wildness of the West, but its peaceful, pastoral nature—and the effect the land had on the men who worked it. J. Frank Dobie called it “the best book that can ever be written about cowboy life.” More recently, Larry McMurtry drew upon Adams's novel when writing *Lonesome Dove*.

Adams published six more books on ranching life and helped shape the genre of western fiction. He died in 1935.

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

1. Why did Andy Adams begin writing stories?

**He wrote to prove that cowboys were practical workingmen.**

2. How did Adams' portrayal of the West differ from other writers?

**Adams' portrayal of the West was focused on the peaceful, pastoral nature—and the effect the land had on the men who worked it. Other writers' portrayals focused on the wildness of the West.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** What invention contributed to the end of cattle drives and the open range?

**Barbed wire**



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### Anne Legendre Armstrong 1927–2008

Once, when asked about her many achievements, the politician, diplomat, and rancher Anne Armstrong explained, “I was born with energy.” That energy spurred Armstrong to become a woman of many “firsts”: first female co-chair of the Republican National Committee, first female counselor to a U.S. president, and first woman to chair the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Armstrong is so closely associated with Texas that it’s easy to forget that she was born in New Orleans. In the 1950s, after marrying cattleman Tobin Armstrong, she moved to South Texas and became active in local politics, while also raising five children and helping to run her husband’s Kenedy County ranch.

Armstrong became co-chair of the RNC in 1971. The next year, she became the first woman to give the keynote address at a national party convention. While serving as a cabinet-level Counsellor to President Nixon, Armstrong created the White House Office of Women’s Programs.

She later became Counsellor to President Ford, who appointed her ambassador to Great Britain. Armstrong was a beacon to many women who aspired to public service, including Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, who described Armstrong as her “greatest mentor for thirty years.”

Armstrong maintained strong ties to South Texas throughout her distinguished career. When she died in 2008 at the age of eighty, she was a sitting member of the Kenedy County Commission.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Anne Legendre Armstrong. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did Anne Legendre Armstrong spend most of her life after marrying her husband?  
**She moved to South Texas and lived on a ranch in Kenedy County.**
2. Which two presidents gave Armstrong positions in their administrations?  
**Armstrong served as a cabinet-level counsellor for Presidents Nixon and Ford. Ford also appointed her as ambassador to Great Britain.**

**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.** Armstrong says that she “was born with energy” as an explanation for her success. What other qualities did she likely demonstrate that led to her success?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



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*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 Mary Kay Ash. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mary Kay Ash 1918–2001

In 1963, Mary Kay Ash launched her cosmetics business in Dallas with nine independent beauty consultants. Today, 2.5 million women sell her products in thirty-five countries.

Born near Houston in 1918, Ash watched her mother work long hours to support the family. At a time when few women worked outside the home, Ash, too, pursued a career. She flourished as a saleswoman but quit when a man she had trained was promoted above her.

She set out to write a book of advice for career women but ended up designing a business to develop women's entrepreneurship alongside their beauty.

Each Mary Kay beauty consultant is an independent business owner who educates others in the product line and recruits them into the sales force. Focused on developing women's potential, Ash abided by the golden rule. "If an employer would treat employees and customers as he or she wished to be treated," she said, "all would profit."

Mary Kay, Inc., awards successful saleswomen with the company's signature pink Cadillacs. From a Dallas storefront to a global brand, Ash's dynamic style made her a business icon.

"To me, life is no brief candle," she declared. "It's a splendid torch that I want to burn brightly before I pass it on to future generations." Though Mary Kay Ash died in 2001, the company and its founder's indomitable spirit live on.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mary Kay Ash. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Mary Kay Ash quit her job as a saleswoman?

**A man she trained was promoted above her.**

2. What was different about the way that Ash set up her new business?

**Her business was designed to develop women's entrepreneurship. Each Mary Kay beauty consultant is an independent business owner who educates others in the product line and recruits them into the sales force.**

**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.** According to the episode, Ash created a business "to develop women's entrepreneurship alongside their beauty." What does entrepreneurship mean?

**Setting up/establishing a business**



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*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 Moses Austin. Then, answer questions about it.

### Moses Austin 1761–1821

Moses Austin, the patriarch of Anglo settlement in Texas, died before his colonial dream became a reality.

Austin was born in Connecticut in 1761. As a young man, he opened dry goods stores in Philadelphia and Richmond. After winning the contract to roof the new Virginia capitol, Austin acquired the state's richest lead deposit and brought miners from England. In establishing the American lead industry, he became a wealthy man.

In 1798, Austin moved into the Spanish territory of Louisiana and founded the first Anglo settlement west of the Mississippi River at what is now Potosi, Missouri.

However, the economy of the early American republic was highly unstable, and, by 1819, Austin found himself deeply in debt. Ever the schemer, he developed a plan to establish an American colony in Spanish Texas. In 1820, he traveled to San Antonio, where the Baron de Bastrop convinced the Spanish governor to approve Austin's plan. Austin soon received a land grant in what is now the state of Texas.

Austin contracted pneumonia on his return to Missouri and died two months later. Two days before his death, he called his wife to his sickbed and begged her to tell his son Stephen to take his place as leader of the Texas colony. It was left to Stephen F. Austin to fulfill his father's dream.

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

1. How did Moses Austin make his wealth?

**Moses Austin opened dry goods stores in Philadelphia and Richmond, won the contract to roof the new Virginia capitol, acquired the state's richest lead deposit and brought miners from England, and established the American lead industry.**

2. When Austin later found himself in debt, what was his new plan to make money?

**He developed a plan to establish an American colony in Spanish Texas.**

**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 1820, Austin traveled to San Antonio to gain permission for his settlement plan. Why did Austin need permission to establish a colony in Texas?

**Texas was a Spanish territory.**



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*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 Stephen Fuller Austin. Then, answer questions about it.

### Stephen Fuller Austin 1793–1836

Stephen F. Austin wrote, "I have learned patience in the hard School of an Empresario." That was six years after Austin brought his first settlers to Texas. Colonizing Texas would become his life's work, but without his patience and years of sacrifice, Texas as we know it today might not exist.

Austin came to Texas in 1821 to continue his father's work. Moses Austin received permission to bring Anglo colonists into Spanish Texas but before his plan took shape, Moses Austin died. His dying wish was for his son Stephen to fulfill the dream. The opportunities he found were real and so were the challenges. The government of Mexico was in upheaval, the colonists were stubborn, and Indigenous peoples resisted the colonization of their lands.

Despite this, Austin's colonies prospered. The new Texans began to resent the Mexican government. In 1834, Mexican officials arrested Austin, hoping to prevent a rebellion. It didn't work. Removing Austin's moderating influence only aided settlers who favored a revolution. When Austin was released from prison, his patience had run out, and he promptly joined the fight for independence.

Austin died of pneumonia shortly after the war was won. "The Father of Texas is no more," declared President Sam Houston. Houston had been a political rival of Austin, but upon his death, he recognized the debt owed by Texas to the state's first empresario.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Stephen Fuller Austin. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Stephen F. Austin become involved in colonizing Texas?

**Stephen F. Austin became involved in colonizing Texas to fulfill his father's dying wish.**

2. Name three challenges Austin faced in setting up his colony.

**The government of Mexico was in upheaval, the colonists were stubborn, and local Indians resisted Anglo settlements.**

**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 was the unintended consequence of Austin's arrest? Do you think there might have been a different outcome if he had not been arrested? Why or why not?

**When Austin was released from prison, his patience had run out, and he promptly joined the fight for independence.**



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*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 Frederick Bean "Tex" Avery. Then, answer questions about it.

### Frederick Bean "Tex" Avery 1908–1980

Frederick Bean Avery's middle name honored his ancestor, notorious "Judge" Roy Bean. His nickname, "Tex," was bestowed by fellow animators in Hollywood, where Avery helped create the modern art of cartooning.

Born in Taylor, Texas, in 1908, Avery graduated from North Dallas High School and followed his love of cartoons to California. After learning the trade in various studios, Avery landed at Termite Terrace, the dilapidated office of Warner Brothers Cartoons. There, Avery and his team pioneered a style of animation that defied convention.

Avery's characters departed sharply from the romantic realism of Walt Disney's popular films. They spoke directly to the audience, offered sarcastic asides, and made irreverence an art form. Avery asked his team, "What do you think the audience would least expect?" The resulting gags defined Looney Toons, making a star of the character Porky Pig and leading to the 1940 creation of the world's most famous rabbit: Bugs Bunny. Avery gifted the wisecracking Bugs with the catchphrase "What's up, Doc?"—a greeting that had been popular at his high school.

After Warner Brothers, Avery created classic characters for MGM and later animated TV commercials. He died in 1980, but his influence endures today. Avery was, as one film historian put it, "the King of Cartoons: a free-wheeling anarchist whose distinctive sense of humor changed the face of U.S. animation forever."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Frederick Bean "Tex" Avery. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Frederick Bean "Tex" Avery move to California?  
**He wanted a career making cartoons.**
2. Where does Bugs Bunny's famous greeting "What's up, Doc?" originate?  
**It had been a popular phrase at Avery's high school.**

**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 phrase "a free-wheeling anarchist" mean?  
**Avery made choices that specifically went against the established order and were intended to go against audience expectations.**



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*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 Karle Wilson Baker. Then, answer questions about it.

### Karle Wilson Baker 1878–1960

Karle Wilson Baker was Texas's most celebrated poet in the first half of the twentieth century.

Born in Arkansas in 1878, Baker followed her parents to Nacogdoches in her early twenties. She soon fell under the spell of her adopted state, writing about the role of Texans in the American drama.

In her novel *Family Style*, she portrays the impact of the East Texas oil boom on a single, small community. Another novel, *Star of the Wilderness*, is set against the backdrop of the Texas Revolution.

But Baker was best known for her poetry. Writer Dorothy Scarborough praised Baker's attention to the details of ordinary lives, describing her as the "singer of quiet things." Baker's collection of poems *Dreamers on Horseback* was nominated for the 1931 Pulitzer Prize.

Baker was a popular professor at Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College. In 1952, she became a charter member of the Texas Institute of Letters.

Baker died in 1960. Her early poem "The Tree" describes her lifelong commitment to writing: "My life is a tree . . . pledged . . . to stand hard against the storm. . . / (But high in the branches of my / green tree there is a wild bird singing: / Wind-free are the wings of my bird: / She hath built no mortal nest.)"

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Karle Wilson Baker. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Karle Wilson Baker draw inspiration from her adopted state for her writing?  
**She paid attention to the details of ordinary lives of people who lived in the state, including during some major historical events like the Texas Revolution and the oil boom.**
2. In 1931, Baker's poetry was nominated for which award?  
**Pulitzer Prize**

**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.** Baker uses the metaphor, "My life is a tree..." to describe her commitment to writing. Explain what you think she meant by this comparison.  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer:** The wild bird in her, her voice and writings, are always singing (writing) because her life, a tree in a storm, protects her voice.



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*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 Rosa María Hinojosa de Ballí. Then, answer questions about it.

### Rosa María Hinojosa de Ballí 1752–1803

In 1790, the woman now known as the first "cattle queen" of Texas—Rosa María Hinojosa de Ballí—inherited fifty-five thousand acres in what is now South Texas. Her father and husband had applied to the Spanish crown for the land, but both died before their request was approved.

It soon became clear that in addition to the land, Doña Rosa possessed a strong will, exceptional foresight, and shrewd business skills.

From her ranch headquarters in what is now Cameron County, Doña Rosa set about to improve her land, expand her holdings, and rid the estate of the debt that came with her inheritance. She acquired herds of cattle, sheep, and other livestock. She applied for and received land grants on behalf of her three sons, including a portion of Padre Island, which was named for her son Nicolás, a priest who helped develop the island. Her goal was to establish a ranching empire for her family.

Deeply religious, Doña Rosa was also a generous benefactor of Catholic churches throughout the region, earning her the nickname "La Patrona." Her name appears in local church records as the godmother at scores of baptisms.

When she died, in 1803, just thirteen years after her original inheritance, Doña Rosa owned more than a million acres of ranch land in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Rosa María Hinojosa de Ballí. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Rosa María Hinojosa de Ballí acquire her land?

**Her father and husband had applied to the Spanish crown for the land, but both died before their request was approved.**

2. What was Ballí's ultimate goal for the land she acquired?

**Her goal was to establish a ranching empire for her family.**

**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.** Based on the episode, what do you think Doña Rosa's nickname "La Patrona" means?

**The patron — a financial supporter of organizations and the community as a whole.**





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*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 Betty Eve Ballinger. Then, answer questions about it.

### Betty Eve Ballinger 1854–1936

Betty Eve Ballinger was born in Galveston in 1854, nearly twenty years after the Texas Revolution. As a young woman, she was captivated by stories of the struggles of Texas patriots. Her grandfather, William Houston Jack, fought at the Battle of San Jacinto.

After studying in New Orleans and Baltimore, Ballinger returned to Galveston, where she and her cousin Hally Bryan Perry cultivated their interest in Texas history. They decided to form a genealogical organization to preserve the memories of those who fought for the republic. The two recruited other women and, in 1891, formed the organization now known as the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Today, the DRT continues its mission of preserving historic sites, providing educational programs, and encouraging historical research. Due to the efforts of Ballinger and the DRT, statues of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston stand in both the Texas and United States Capitols.

Ballinger was also active in a number of progressive reform organizations, especially following the 1900 Galveston hurricane. With groups such as the Women's Health Protective Association and the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, she advocated for environmental protection, public health, fair labor practices, and woman suffrage.

As Betty Ballinger preserved the Texas past, she also shaped its future. She died in 1936—the centennial of the Battle of San Jacinto.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Betty Eve Ballinger. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What organization did Betty Eve Ballinger help to found?

**Ballinger was one of the founders of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.**

2. Ballinger advocated for a number of progressive reforms. Name three of them.

**Student answer should include three of the following: environmental protection, public health, fair labor practices, woman suffrage.**

**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.** Ballinger worked to preserve Texas historic sites. If you learned that an older building that you thought was important was at risk, what would you do to protect it?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



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*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 Eugene C. Barker. Then, answer questions about it.

### Eugene C. Barker 1874–1956

Eugene C. Barker, in the words of his biographer, “did more than any other historian to show the influence that Texas exerted in shaping the destiny of the United States.”

Born in East Texas in 1874, Barker first attended The University of Texas at Austin in 1895. His life intertwined with that of the young school, helping to make it the “university of the first class” called for in the state constitution.

Between 1915 and 1917, Barker was a leading voice in the university’s struggles with Governor Jim Ferguson over academic freedom. Barker had a reputation for being stern, fair, and honest, qualities that made him a legendary teacher and colleague.

As a scholar, Barker furthered the study of Texas and expanded the Texas State Historical Association. In 1925, he published the first biography of Stephen F. Austin. Through this and other works, Barker made narratives of the borderlands central to American history.

Barker’s influence was large. His students Walter Prescott Webb and Carlos Castañeda continued to make Austin a capital for scholarship on the American Southwest. In 1950, UT dedicated the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, the first time the university named a campus facility for a living faculty member. Barker retired shortly thereafter and died in 1956.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Eugene C. Barker. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. According to his biographer, how would Eugene C. Barker describe the relationship between Texas and the United States?

**Texas had a large influence in shaping the destiny of the United States.**

2. What concept about American history did Barker highlight in his works?

**The borderlands are central to American 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. **Taking a Position.** Why is it important to consider multiple perspectives when studying history?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



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*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 Etta Moten Barnett. Then, answer questions about it.

### Etta Moten Barnett 1901–2004

Acclaimed singer and actress Etta Moten Barnett was born in Weimar, Texas, in 1901. By the age of ten, she was singing in the choir of her father's church. Thirty-three years later, at the invitation of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, she became one of the first African American women to sing at the White House.

Barnett's career led her to Hollywood, where she appeared in films such as Busby Berkeley's *Gold Diggers of 1933* and *Flying Down to Rio*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. These breakthrough roles defied stereotypes for Black women and paved the way for singers and actresses such as Dorothy Dandridge and Lena Horne.

Barnett also starred on Broadway, most notably as Bess in a revival of *Porgy and Bess*. She charmed audiences around the world singing in concerts with the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

In addition to her performing career, Barnett was deeply involved in civic affairs, women's issues, and causes such as African independence. She received citations and honorary degrees for her artistry and humanitarian work. In 1979, she was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and was named by the Texas Women's Chamber of Commerce one of the twentieth century's one hundred most influential Texas women.

A longtime Chicago resident, Etta Barnett died in 2004, at the age of 102.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Etta Moten Barnett. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Etta Moten Barnett get her start as a singer?  
**She sang in the choir of her father's church.**
2. Barnett used her platform as a performer to bring attention to what kinds of issues?  
**Civic affairs, women's issues, and causes such as African independence.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** In 1934, Barnett performed at the White House for President and Mrs. Roosevelt. Why might this have been controversial at the time?  
**She became one of the first African American women to sing at the White House in a time of segregation.**



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*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 Amelia E. Barr. Then, answer questions about it.

### Amelia E. Barr 1831–1919

In 1888, the historical novel *Remember the Alamo* was published to popular and critical acclaim. Set during the Texas fight for independence, the book includes vivid portraits of Santa Anna, Sam Houston, and Davy Crockett. The novel's unlikely author was Amelia Barr, a British writer who lived in Texas in the mid-nineteenth century.

Barr moved to America with her husband and daughters in 1853. They lived briefly in Chicago and Memphis before settling in Austin.

In Texas, Barr was enthralled by tales of the state's history. She plunged into Austin's social life and recorded sharp-eyed accounts of the city in her diary in the turbulent years before and during the Civil War.

In 1867, Barr's husband and three of her children died of yellow fever in Galveston. Barr moved to New York soon after and, as she put it, "was reborn" into a life of duty. To support herself, she launched her remarkably successful writing career, publishing an average of two books per year over three decades. Richly detailed historical romances such as *Remember the Alamo* became her specialty.

Barr died in 1919. In her memoir, completed at age eighty, she wrote that she hoped her life story might help "any sad or doubtful woman to outleap her own shadow, and to stand bravely out in the sunshine to meet her destiny."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Amelia E. Barr. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Amelia Barr begin her writing career?

**She wrote to support herself.**

2. Where did Amelia Barr live prior to coming to Texas?

**England, Chicago, and Memphis**

**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.** Why might a historian writing about Texas during the Civil War be interested in reading Barr's diary?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: Her level of detail. She plunged into Austin's social life and recorded sharp-eyed accounts of the city in her diary.**



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*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 Roy Bedichek. Then, answer questions about it.

### Roy Bedichek 1878–1959

According to J. Frank Dobie, the writer and naturalist Roy Bedichek “liked to cook outdoors, eat outdoors, sleep outdoors, look and listen outdoors, [and] be at one . . . with the first bob-whiting at dawn.”

Bedichek was born in 1878 and raised on a farm south of Waco, where he absorbed the sights, sounds, and rhythms of the blackland prairie.

He spent the majority of his professional career as director of the state’s University Interscholastic League, which promotes academic and athletic competition in Texas public schools.

But Bedichek is best remembered for the books he wrote late in life. In 1946, at the age of sixty-eight, he spent nearly a year in seclusion at Friday Mountain Ranch, writing *Adventures with a Texas Naturalist*.

A classic of American nature writing, Bedichek’s book—like Thoreau’s *Walden*—mixes natural history with moral and philosophical speculation. The prose is crisp, unpretentious, and engaging. Bedichek views the world and the cosmos from his particular vantage point on the Edwards Plateau. In 1947, Dobie described the book as perhaps “the wisest and most civilized book that Texas has yet produced.”

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

1. Where did Roy Bedichek grow up?

**He grew up on a farm south of Waco.**

2. Describe Bedichek’s writing in his book *Adventures with a Texas Naturalist*.

**He used a mixture of natural history with moral and philosophical speculation as well as crisp, unpretentious, and engaging prose.**

**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.** How might Bedichek’s upbringing and the changes he saw around him have affected the way he saw nature?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: student could reflect on the specific geography of the region or the growing urbanization of the state during Bedichek’s lifetime.**



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*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 Plácido Benavides. Then, answer questions about it.

### Plácido Benavides 1810–1837

Plácido Benavides is called the “Paul Revere of Texas” for his role in the Texas Revolution.

Born in 1810 in Mexico, Benavides moved to Texas in 1828. He found work in Victoria with the family of empresario Martín De León. Benavides married De León’s daughter Agustina and became the city’s alcalde, or leading magistrate.

By 1835, Benavides had joined the Texians in opposing Mexican dictator Santa Anna. As head of Victoria’s militia, Benavides stood up to Mexican soldiers trying to arrest suspected rebels. This defiance made him a rebel, too.

Benavides helped take Goliad and San Antonio for the Texians. Soon after, he was among the men ambushed by the Mexican army near San Patricio. In the ensuing battle, he was dispatched to Goliad to alert others of the Mexican army’s approach.

Benavides’s ride to Goliad has been compared to Paul Revere’s famous ride in the American Revolution, as both men spread the news of oncoming enemy assault.

It was on this ride that Benavides learned that Texas had declared independence. Though he opposed Santa Anna, Benavides was fighting for Texas as part of a federalist Mexico, not for Texas independence. His relations with the Texas rebels soon soured. After the Texian victory in 1836, Benavides and the De León family left Victoria for exile in New Orleans.

Benavides never returned to Texas. He died in 1837.

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

1. Why did Plácido Benavides eventually separate himself from the Texas rebels?

**Benavides was fighting for Texas as part of a federalist Mexico, not for Texas independence.**

2. Why was Benavides compared to Paul Revere?

**Both men spread the news of oncoming enemy assault.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Benavides married empresario Martín De León’s daughter. What is an empresario? How were they involved in the settlement of Texas?

**A land agent. They contracted with the Spanish or Mexican government to settle a certain number of families in Texas in exchange for sizable grants of land.**



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*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 Nettie Lee Benson. Then, answer questions about it.

### Nettie Lee Benson 1905–1993

Librarian and historian Nettie Lee Benson rose from a bookish South Texas childhood to assemble one of the world's leading archives for research on Latin America.

Born in 1905, Benson grew up on a family farm outside Sinton, not far from Corpus Christi, and earned her undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin. In 1925, she took a teaching job in Monterrey. There, as she later explained, she “drank the waters of Mexico,” and her lifelong interest in Latin America blossomed.

Benson became the director of UT's Latin American Collection in 1942. In 1960, a group of libraries chose her to travel Latin America to acquire rare books and manuscripts. Her supervisor balked, but university president Harry Ransom intervened, giving Benson a generous budget to acquire materials for UT.

Ransom's gamble paid off. When Benson left on her first collecting trip, UT's Latin American holdings totaled around 60,000 items. By her retirement in 1975, they held over 300,000. UT's Latin American Collection, now named in Benson's honor, stands as one of the leading centers for scholarship on the region.

In 1979, Benson received the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest honor Mexico bestows on foreign nationals.

Benson dedicated her life to preserving Latin American history and culture. Now, scholars from around the world visit the Austin library bearing her name.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Nettie Lee Benson. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What started Nettie Lee Benson's interest in Latin American history and culture?

**She took a teaching job in Monterrey.**

2. How did Benson increase the Latin American holdings at UT Austin?

**A group of libraries chose her to travel to Latin America to acquire rare books and manuscripts. University president Harry Ransom gave Benson a generous budget to acquire materials for UT.**

**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.** Do you think that it is okay to take materials like Benson acquired, or should they remain in their countries of origin? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 John Biggers. Then, answer questions about it.

### John Biggers 1924–2001

With a bent back and powerful hands, an African American man figures prominently in a large mural in Houston's Blue Triangle YWCA. To his left, Harriet Tubman leads a group of enslaved people to freedom. To his right, Sojourner Truth stands while children march proudly into a schoolhouse.

Dedicated in 1953, this mural—titled *The Contribution of Negro Women to American Life and Education*—was a milestone in the career of artist John Biggers. A longtime Houston resident, Biggers found his voice by depicting the heroic survival of his people. He said, "I began to see art . . . as a responsibility to reflect the spirit and style of the Negro people."

Biggers achieved recognition as an artist for his drawings and sculptures, but he is best known for his murals. These murals form a rich part of Houston's visual and public landscape at Texas Southern University, the University of Houston, Tom Bass Park, and Christina V. Adair Park.

In 1949, Biggers was named chairman of the art department at the institution that would become Texas Southern University. Over the next thirty-four years Biggers trained the next generation of African American artists and teachers that form a vital part of Biggers's legacy.

John Biggers left behind a body of work that as Maya Angelou stated, "leads us through his expressions into the discovery of ourselves at our most intimate level."

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

1. What historical figures does John Biggers show in his mural *The Contribution of Negro Women to American Life and Education*?

**Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth**

2. Besides his own art, what else forms a part of Biggers' legacy?

**He was chairman of the art department at the institution that would become Texas Southern University, where he trained the next generation of African American artists.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** The 1950s saw many gains in the fight for civil rights. Which of those gains might be reflected in the subjects of Biggers' murals?

**Biggers' murals reflect the subjects of desegregation and equal access to education; equity in the workforce; and cultural resiliency.**





## 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 Annie Webb Blanton. Then, answer questions about it.

### Annie Webb Blanton 1870–1945

As a public official, suffragist, and educator, Annie Webb Blanton devoted her life to women's rights. She said, "Everything that helps to wear away age-old prejudices contributes towards the advancement of women and of humanity."

Born in Houston in 1870, Blanton pursued a career in teaching to demonstrate her independence. After graduating from The University of Texas in 1899, she worked at Denton's North Texas State Normal College, now the University of North Texas. There she took an interest in the challenges facing women educators and joined the suffrage movement. Blanton believed that women working together for change were more effective than those struggling alone.

In 1918, Blanton was elected State Superintendent for Public Instruction, becoming the first woman in Texas to hold a statewide elected office. She pursued a vigorous agenda of increasing teacher pay, improving rural schools, and standardizing instruction.

After two terms, Blanton became a professor at The University of Texas, where she spent the rest of her professional life. In 1929, she and several colleagues founded Delta Kappa Gamma, a society for women educators. Starting in Austin, the organization quickly expanded throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Blanton died in 1945, but her legacy lives on in the equal opportunities enjoyed by Texas women and the model she set for those who followed her into public service.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Annie Webb Blanton. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Annie Webb Blanton pursue a career in teaching?  
**She pursued a career in teaching to demonstrate her independence.**
2. Blanton became the first woman elected to statewide public office in Texas. To what position was she elected?  
**State Superintendent for Public Instruction**

**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.** Blanton thought that people were more effective when they worked together to create change, rather than alone. Do you agree? Why or why not?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Julius Bledsoe. Then, answer questions about it.

### Julius Bledsoe 1897–1943

The singer who first performed the song “Ol’ Man River” is an obscure figure today. Baritone Julius Bledsoe was among the first African Americans to appear on Broadway, but he made few recordings and his fame was soon eclipsed by the great Paul Robeson, who succeeded him in the role of Joe in the classic musical *Show Boat*.

Bledsoe was born in Waco around 1897 and attended Bishop College in Marshall. He took voice lessons while studying medicine at Columbia University in the early 1920s and made his professional debut at New York’s Aeolian Hall in 1924. Three years later, Bledsoe appeared in the original production of *Show Boat*. A critic from the New York Morning Telegraph described him as “a singer who can pick the heart right out of your body—if you don’t look out.”

Bledsoe was a composer as well. His song cycle *African Suite* premiered in Amsterdam in 1936, and he wrote an opera based on the novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. In the forties, Bledsoe had minor roles in films, including *Santa Fe Trail* and *Western Union*.

Bledsoe died in 1943 and is buried in Waco. His tombstone is inscribed with a line from “Ol’ Man River,” the song that made him a star—“He just keeps rollin’ along.”

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

1. Julius Bledsoe became one of the first African Americans to do what?

**To appear on Broadway**

2. The episode describes Bledsoe as an “obscure figure.” Why is he not well remembered today?

**He made few recordings and his fame was soon eclipsed by the great Paul Robeson, who succeeded him in the role of Joe in the classic musical *Show Boat*.**

**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.** The episode says that Bledsoe took voice lessons while in medical school at Columbia in the 1920s. Based on his career as a singer and actor, what might you conclude about Bledsoe’s career choice?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Mody Coggin Boatright. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mody Coggin Boatright 1896–1970

Folklorist and oral history pioneer Mody Boatright was no stranger to the tall tale. Raised in a West Texas ranching family in the early twentieth century, he was descended from pioneers, cattlemen, and merchants. He grew up immersed in stories of the Texas frontier.

Boatright served in World War I and earned his bachelor's degree from what is now West Texas A&M University. In 1922, he arrived at The University of Texas, where he ultimately earned his PhD. With the exception of one year in El Paso, Boatright taught in Austin until his retirement in 1968.

In 1934, Boatright published his first book, *Tall Tales from Texas Cow Camps*, which gathered stories from his childhood and from his many students who were also raised on ranches. Boatright also recorded the folklore of the Texas oilfields, presenting the hardworking drillers and roughnecks as the mythical figures of a new age in American industry.

Unlike other folklorists, who added literary flourishes to the tales they published, Boatright presented his stories in the unadorned voices of their original tellers.

Boatright was a fellow of the Texas Folklore Society and edited its annual publications. Following his death in 1970, his friend and colleague Américo Paredes described Boatright as “the most distinguished professional folklorist that Texas has produced.”

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mody Coggin Boatright. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Mody Coggin Boatright's family life influence his interest in writing stories about ranch life and cowboys?

**He was descended from pioneers, cattlemen, and merchants and grew up immersed in stories of the Texas frontier.**

2. How did Boatright's stories differ from those told by other folklorists?

**His stories had no flourishes and he presented his stories in the unadorned voices of their original tellers.**

**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.** How do you think stories like the kind that Boatright wrote contributed to the mythology of Texas?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Gail Borden Jr. Then, answer questions about it.

**Gail Borden Jr.  
1801–1874**

Gail Borden Jr. was undaunted by failure. In the 1840s he built a wagon meant to travel on land and water but did neither successfully. His nutritional biscuits made from dehydrated meat and flour were unpalatable. Yet Borden kept at it. In the 1850s, he developed a way to condense milk—and this time, succeeded on a grand scale.

Born in New York in 1801, Borden moved to Texas in his late twenties. He became the official surveyor for Stephen F. Austin’s colony and prepared the first topographical map of Texas.

In 1835, he began publishing a newspaper. He also served as the first customs collector for the port of Galveston. For several years, he sold lots on Galveston Island.

In the 1840s, Borden turned to inventing. He returned to New York to promote his meat biscuits. But it was his patented process for condensing milk that won the day. He opened several factories in the Northeast. Increased demand during the Civil War boosted sales. Borden’s invention soon turned the localized dairy business into a national industry.

Borden returned to Texas after the Civil War and became a generous benefactor of local schools and churches. He died in 1874 in the small Central Texas town that now bears his name.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Gail Borden Jr. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. As a young man, Gail Borden Jr. pursued many different careers. What were three of the jobs he held before becoming an inventor?

**Student answer should include three of the following: the official surveyor for Stephen F. Austin’s colony, newspaper publisher, first customs collector for the port of Galveston, salesman of lots on Galveston Island**

2. Borden’s first two “inventions” were failures. What invention eventually led to his success?

**The process for condensing milk**

**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.** Some people say failure shapes success. Do you think Borden was successful despite his failures or because of them? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Chief Bowl. Then, answer questions about it.

### Chief Bowl 1756–1839

Cherokee leader Chief Bowl, also known as "Bowles" and "Duwali," was born in North Carolina around 1756 to a Scottish father and a Cherokee mother. In the early nineteenth century, Bowl led the first large Cherokee emigration west of the Mississippi River—to Missouri, then Arkansas, and finally to the Mexican province of Texas. There, in a settlement near Nacogdoches, Bowl headed an alliance of Cherokee villages.

Bowl helped Mexico defeat Anglo settlers in the Fredonian Rebellion of 1827. Nevertheless, the Mexican government refused to recognize Cherokee land claims in East Texas.

In 1836, Sam Houston, acting as a commissioner of the provisional Texas government, negotiated a treaty with Chief Bowl that secured Cherokee land rights, but the Republic of Texas later rejected the treaty. Texas president Mirabeau B. Lamar called for an "exterminating war" to expel the Cherokee from the Republic.

In 1839, the Texas army defeated the Cherokee near the headwaters of the Neches River. During the battle, Chief Bowl, now eighty-three, carried a sword given to him by his friend Sam Houston, who had once lived among the Cherokee. The heroic chief was among the last to die in the battle.

The Cherokee fled to the Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. After passing through several hands, Bowl's battle sword was presented to the Cherokee Nation in 1890.

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

1. In what locations did the Cherokee settle prior to arriving in Texas?

**North Carolina, Missouri, Arkansas**

2. What did Chief Bowl carry into battle in 1839?

**A sword given to him by his friend Sam Houston.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Sam Houston and Mirabeau B. Lamar had very different views on the rights of American Indians in Texas. How does Chief Bowl's story demonstrate these views?

**Sam Houston negotiated a treaty with Chief Bowl that secured Cherokee land rights, but the Republic of Texas later rejected the treaty. Sam Houston was Chief Bowl's friend, gifting him a sword. Texas president Mirabeau B. Lamar called for an "exterminating war" to expel the Cherokee from the Republic; the Texas army killed Chief Bowl in battle.**



## 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 Billy Lee Brammer. Then, answer questions about it.

### Billy Lee Brammer 1929–1978

Though Billy Lee Brammer's novel *The Gay Place* is a work of fiction, it remains one of the most revealing accounts of Texas politics ever written.

Brammer was born in Dallas in 1929. He earned a degree in journalism from the University of North Texas, then worked as an editor for the *Texas Observer* before moving to Washington to serve as an aide to then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson.

*The Gay Place*, which takes its title from a poem by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was published in 1961 to great acclaim. The novel paints a vivid picture of the compromises, strategy, and horse-trading that we call politics. And Brammer based the characters on people and places he knew in Austin in the fifties, including the writer Willie Morris and the popular watering hole Scholz Garten.

The novel's moving force, Governor Arthur Fenstemaker, was an amalgam of LBJ and former Louisiana governor Earl Long. Fenstemaker's political tactics were, as one reviewer noted, "not exactly taught in civics class." Fenstemaker lectures a young congressman by saying, "The first principle is you've got to learn to rise above principle."

Brammer never followed up on the success of *The Gay Place*; in fact, he never finished another book. But he remained a fixture on the Austin literary and political scene until his death in 1978. His collected papers are archived at Texas State University in San Marcos.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Billy Lee Brammer. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was the source of the title of Billy Lee Brammer's novel?

**A poem by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

2. How did real life influence Brammer's writing?

**Brammer based the characters on people and places he knew in Austin in the fifties**

**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.** According to the main character in *The Gay Place*, "The first principle is you've got to learn to rise above principle." What does this suggest about how Brammer saw politicians?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: He had a cynical view of politics and the morals of politicians.**



## 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 Mary Elizabeth Branch. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mary Elizabeth Branch 1881–1944

In 1930, Austin's Tillotson College stood on the brink of collapse. The historically Black school, founded in 1881, had dwindled to just five dilapidated buildings and fewer than seventy students. It took the determination of Mary Elizabeth Branch to save the institution.

Branch was born in Virginia in 1881. Her parents were formerly enslaved, and their fervent belief in education shaped her career. After completing high school, Branch became an English teacher and school administrator; in the summers she continued her studies, eventually receiving degrees from the University of Chicago.

In 1930, Branch moved to Austin to take charge of Tillotson. She led efforts to clean up the grounds and raised funds to build new buildings. She expanded the library, hired new faculty, and gave scholarships to top students. A visitor during those years described the campus as “full of the thrill of something being done.” Branch soon became the only African American female president of an institution accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges.

During these years, Branch also worked on the national stage. She helped found the United Negro College Fund and served on the Advisory Board of the National Youth Administration.

Branch passed away in 1944, but her leadership restored Tillotson College’s vitality and enabled its merger with Samuel Huston College. Today, Huston-Tillotson University enrolls over one thousand students.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mary Elizabeth Branch. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was Mary Elizabeth Branch's background, prior to coming to Texas?

**Born to parents who valued education highly, Branch was an English teacher and school administrator.**

2. Name three of the things that Austin did to improve Tillotson College.

**Student answer should include three of the following: led efforts to clean up the grounds, raised funds to build new buildings, expanded the library, hired new faculty, and gave scholarships to top students.**

**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.** Why do you think that Branch chose to improve the physical look of the campus, in addition to improving the academics?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 William Cowper Brann. Then, answer questions about it.

### William Cowper Brann 1855–1898

His thousands of admirers called him a saint. His adversaries—and there were many—called him the Devil's apostle. But Waco publisher and journalist William Cowper Brann preferred to be known by the name of the weekly journal he published, the *Iconoclast*.

As arrogant as he was brilliant, Brann was among the most famous journalists in America in the late nineteenth century.

At its peak, the *Iconoclast* boasted a circulation of a hundred thousand readers. Raw, biting humor and corrosive satire were its trademarks.

The *Iconoclast* crusaded tirelessly against what Brann called “humbugs and humbuggery.” He was an unrepentant racist to be sure—like many Texas journalists of the day—but neighboring Baylor University drew his most scathing attacks.

For example, Brann once called Baylor “that great storm-center of misinformation.”

A group of Baylor students once kidnapped their nemesis, demanded that he retract his statements about the school, and ordered him to leave town, but Brann bucked their command and kept writing.

On April 1, 1898, a Waco businessman shot Brann in the back on a downtown street. The injured editor drew his own revolver, whirled around, and gunned down his assailant. Brann's own wound proved fatal; he died that evening.

William Cowper Brann is buried in Waco's historic Oakwood Cemetery. His granite monument is pock-marked by a bullet.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on William Cowper Brann. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was William Cowper Brann known for?

**He was known for publishing the *Iconoclast*, a weekly journal with raw, biting humor and corrosive satire.**

2. How did Brann die?

**A Waco businessman shot Brann in the back on a downtown street.**

**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.** Why do you think Brann's satire was so upsetting to students at Baylor University?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**





## 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 J. Mason Brewer. Then, answer questions about it.

### J. Mason Brewer 1896–1975

Scholar and folklorist John Mason Brewer was born in Goliad in 1896. Over his fifty-year career, Brewer almost single-handedly preserved the African American folklore of his home state.

Brewer's grandfathers were waggoners who hauled dry goods across Texas. His father worked as a cowboy, traveling to the Indian Territories and Kansas. The stories they shared fostered Brewer's love of folk tales, while his mother, Minnie, a schoolteacher, inspired him to make scholarship his life's work.

When Brewer graduated from Wiley College in 1917, he worked as a teacher and wrote poetry. But he also collected the folktales he heard at schools and churches, in general stores and barbershops—the places of everyday life for Black Texans.

While teaching in Austin in the 1930s, Brewer shared some of his tales with folklorist J. Frank Dobie. Impressed, Dobie arranged for their publication under the title *Juneteenth*.

Many more books followed, filled with folk tales that Brewer learned firsthand from people formerly enslaved in Texas and their descendants. Recorded in the dialect of their tellers, the stories revolve around preachers and overseers, husbands and wives, reflecting the hardship and humor of the “coming-up times” after slavery.

Brewer became the first African American member of the Texas Folklore Society and the Texas Institute of Letters. His books serve as a timeless record of Texas storytelling and powerful proof of what he called “folklore as a living force.”

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on J. Mason Brewer. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. J. Mason Brewer became the first African American member of what associations for Texas writers?

**Texas Folklore Society and the Texas Institute of Letters**

2. How do the stories in Brewer's books reflect the everyday experiences of African Americans in Texas?

**He collected the folktales he heard at schools and churches, in general stores and barbershops—the places of everyday life for Black Texans.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** How does folklore preserve and pass down valuable histories that might otherwise be lost?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Caro Crawford Brown. Then, answer questions about it.

### Caro Crawford Brown 1908–2001

In 1947, Caro Brown and her family were living in the South Texas town of Alice when she took a job as a proofreader with the local newspaper, the *Daily Echo*.

Brown soon became the paper's courthouse reporter. In 1952, she began covering the increasing violence in neighboring Duval County, where corrupt political boss George Parr struggled to maintain his control over local elections.

Over a two-year period, Brown attended countless court proceedings, studied public documents, and met secretly with informants—all to document the vast extent of Parr's political machine. The Associated Press picked up Brown's stories, bringing national attention to the case.

In 1955, Brown received the Pulitzer Prize for local reporting on a deadline, becoming the first female journalist in Texas to win that award. As the Pulitzer committee put it, Brown "dug into the facts behind the dramatic daily events . . . and obtained her stories in spite of the bitterest political opposition." Texas Attorney General John Ben Shepperd confirmed that Brown's reporting "helped to bring forty years of corruption and terrorism to an end."

Shortly after winning the Pulitzer, Brown left journalism. Her daughter once remarked, "There are those who write their whole life and don't accomplish what she did in five years."

Following her death in 2001, Brown was inducted into the Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Caro Crawford Brown. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What two roles did Caro Crawford Brown hold at the *Daily Echo*?  
**She began working as a proofreader but soon became the courthouse reporter.**
2. For what did Brown receive the Pulitzer Prize?  
**Brown received the prize "for local reporting on a deadline" for her reporting on corrupt political boss George Parr.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** What is a "political machine"?  
**A "political machine" is an organization, usually controlled by one person, that uses aggressive means to control the outcomes of elections in their area.**



## 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 Buffalo Hump. Then, answer questions about it.

### **Buffalo Hump c. 1800–1870**

Penateka Comanche war chief Po-cha-na-quar-hip—who was better known to history by the name Buffalo Hump—was born on the Edwards Plateau near the end of the eighteenth century. He gained notoriety among white settlers in 1840 after government troops massacred thirty-five Comanche men, women, and children during peace talks at the San Antonio Council House.

A formidable warrior, Buffalo Hump sought revenge for the killings, raiding white settlements in Victoria and Linnville. His raiding party was finally stopped by Texas Rangers at the Battle of Plum Creek near Lockhart, but Buffalo Hump and most of his men escaped.

Buffalo Hump was also a skilled negotiator. In 1844, he met with Sam Houston, then president of the Republic of Texas. The Comanches and their allies agreed to stop raiding settlements if the Texans would stay off the Edwards Plateau. But the Texas Senate refused to recognize the Comanches' boundary. After Texas joined the United States, Buffalo Hump signed a peace treaty with the federal government, thereafter confining most of his raiding to Mexico.

Eventually, facing an unending flood of white settlers, Buffalo Hump ceased raiding and led the Penateka in the difficult transition to reservation life. He lived until around 1870, spending his final years near Fort Cobb, Oklahoma, where he turned to farming in an effort to convince his people to live peacefully.

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

1. What agreement did Buffalo Hump reach with Sam Houston?

**The Comanche agreed to stop raiding settlements if Texans would stay off the Edwards Plateau.**

2. What did Buffalo Hump do as the Penateka transitioned to reservation life?

**He began farming "in an effort to convince his people to live peacefully."**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Why do you think the Texas Senate refused to recognize the Comanches' boundary in their peace treaty negotiations?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode and what they know from classroom studies.**



## 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 Henry Allen Bullock. Then, answer questions about it.

### Henry Allen Bullock 1906–1973

Henry Allen Bullock devoted his life to advancing African American education in Texas—and made history in the process. Bullock was born in North Carolina in 1906. He earned a doctorate in sociology at the University of Michigan. In 1930, he moved to Texas for an academic career spent largely at Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University.

In 1967, Bullock published a history of African American education in the South. The book earned him the Bancroft Prize, one of the highest honors in the field of U.S. history. Bullock argued that, ironically, segregated schools sowed the seeds of their own demise. Though underfunded by the state, Black teachers nurtured the sense of confidence, intellectual tools, and political strength that made the civil rights movement possible.

Bullock's activism was not limited to his teaching and research. He testified for the inclusion of African American history in Texas history textbooks and served on the Texas advisory committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In the fifties, he wrote a regular column for the *Houston Informer*.

In 1969, Bullock became the first African American appointed to the faculty of arts and sciences at The University of Texas at Austin, where he established the school's first ethnic studies program. Bullock retired from UT in 1971 and returned home to Houston. He died in 1973.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Henry Allen Bullock. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. According to Henry Allen Bullock, how did segregated schools "sow the seeds of their own demise"?

**Though segregated schools were underfunded by the state, Black teachers nurtured the sense of confidence, intellectual tools, and political strength that made the civil rights movement possible.**

2. Identify three different activities Bullock did during his career that supported education.

**Student answer to include three of the following: published a history of African American education in the South, testified for the inclusion of African American history in Texas history textbooks, served on the Texas advisory committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, wrote a regular column for the Houston Informer, established the University of Texas at Austin's first ethnic studies program**

**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.** Why is it important for diverse histories to be represented in school textbooks?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. Then, answer questions about it.

### Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca 1490–1559

Spanish explorer Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca first set foot on land that would become Texas in 1528, when his crude raft ran aground near Galveston Island. The raft held survivors of an ill-fated Spanish expedition to settle Florida.

Cabeza de Vaca then embarked upon what one scholar described as “the most remarkable [journey] in the record of American exploration.”

He lived for several years among Indigenous peoples of Texas, learning the tribes' languages and customs. In time, he reunited with three other survivors of the original expedition. The travelers gained a reputation as healers, and their fame spread as they slowly made their way to Mexico.

Cabeza de Vaca and his companions eventually arrived in Mexico City in 1536. They had traveled nearly 2,400 miles over eight years in Texas and the Mexican borderlands.

In 1542, he published an account of his adventures, the *Relación*, the first literary work with Texas as its subject. This remarkable book about the region's people, landscape, flora, and fauna is now considered a "cornerstone of the history of the Spanish Southwest."

Cabeza de Vaca later served as a colonial official in South America, where he argued that Spanish colonists should deal fairly with native populations. Sadly, he was arrested for his unpopular views and returned to Spain, where he lived modestly for the rest of his days.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca arrive in the land that would become Texas?  
**His crude raft ran aground near Galveston Island. The raft held survivors of an ill-fated Spanish expedition to settle Florida.**
2. How many miles did Cabeza de Vaca cover during his journey, and how long did it take?  
**2,400 miles over eight years**

**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.** Why were Cabeza de Vaca's views on native populations unpopular at the time?  
**He argued that Spanish colonists should deal fairly with native populations instead of taking advantage of them, which went against what many believed.**



## 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 Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Carpenter. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Carpenter 1920–2010

“Give me wide open spaces, a Model T, and a typewriter,” Liz Carpenter once told her mother, “and I’ll see you in the hall of fame.” That confidence carried Carpenter from Salado, Texas, all the way to the White House. She blazed a trail for women in media and helped build a new image of women in politics.

A sixth-generation Texan, Carpenter was born on her family’s ranch in 1920. She moved to the state capital as a schoolgirl and earned a journalism degree from the University of Texas.

Carpenter worked as a reporter in Washington, DC, until joining Lyndon Johnson’s vice-presidential campaign in 1960. When the assassination of President Kennedy catapulted LBJ to the presidency, Lady Bird Johnson hired Carpenter as her press secretary. Together they modernized the role of First Lady, as Mrs. Johnson championed the president’s policies and initiatives of her own, including highway beautification.

Carpenter returned to Texas in 1974 after the death of her husband, Les, but she didn’t slow down. At her home in Austin, she threw legendary parties in support of causes and campaigns. She fought for women’s rights, wrote three memoirs, and was a popular public speaker.

Carpenter died at age eighty-nine. The girl from Salado fulfilled her vow to her mother when, in 1985, she was appointed to the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Carpenter. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What position did Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Carpenter hold in the Johnson administration?  
**She served as press secretary to Lady Bird, helping to modernize the role of first lady.**
2. What did Carpenter do after her return to Texas in 1974?  
**She threw parties in support of causes and campaigns, fought for women’s rights, wrote memoirs, and engaged in public speaking.**

**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.** Liz Carpenter was appointed to the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame in 1985. If you could select one woman to be in the Hall of Fame, who would it be and why?  
**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Amon G. Carter. Then, answer questions about it.

### Amon G. Carter 1879–1955

People come from around the world to view the art in Fort Worth's Amon Carter Museum of American Art. Works by Frederic Remington and Charles Russell, acquired by Carter, form the heart of the collection. Carter didn't live to see his grand museum completed, but he didn't build it for himself. He built it for his fellow citizens, especially those in his beloved city of Fort Worth.

Carter was born in 1879 in tiny Crafton, Texas, near Wichita Falls. After arriving in Fort Worth at age twenty-five, Carter quickly made his mark. As the advertising manager of the *Fort Worth Star* newspaper, Carter talked investors into buying the more established *Fort Worth Telegram* and merging the two papers. The newly formed *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* dominated the region.

Carter went on to drill for oil and invest in radio, television, and aviation. He tirelessly promoted Fort Worth and worked to bring industry to the city. Carter also shared his wealth. Every Christmas, he anonymously gave each resident of Fort Worth's orphanages and senior homes an envelope with a crisp, new five-dollar bill.

Carter died in 1955. His will contained instructions for building his art museum on a hill looking toward downtown Fort Worth. He once said, "As a youth, I was denied the advantages which go with the possession of money." The museum, which charges no admission fee, was his final way of giving others an opportunity he himself never had.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Amon G. Carter. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. According to the episode, why did Amon G. Carter build an art museum in Fort Worth?  
**He built the museum for his fellow citizens, to give others an opportunity he never had.**
2. What role did Carter play in the creation of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*?  
**Carter talked Fort Worth Star investors into buying the Fort Worth Telegram and merging the papers.**

**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.** What advantages did Carter attribute to exposure to the arts?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Carlos E. Castañeda. Then, answer questions about it.

### Carlos E. Castañeda 1896–1958

Historian Carlos Castañeda changed how we think of the Southwest. He told the story of the Texas–Mexico borderlands as one of shared culture and heritage, rather than conflict and division.

Raised in Brownsville, Castañeda earned his doctorate from The University of Texas at Austin in 1932. He served there as a professor and librarian for the rest of his life.

In his 1928 book *The Mexican Side of the Texan Revolution*, Castañeda cast new light on the events of the 1830s. He rejected the idea that the revolt simply pitted Anglo Americans against Mexicans. Rather, he presented the revolution as a struggle in which a diverse group of rebels, Mexicans and Anglos, fought against dictatorship.

Castañeda's masterpiece was the seven-volume *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas*, written under the auspices of the Texas Knights of Columbus. It documented the Hispanic history of Texas at a time when many marginalized the state's Mexican American population.

Castañeda did not just write about the past. He oversaw the university's extensive Latin American archives and led efforts to collect and preserve documents pertaining to early Texas history.

Castañeda's quest for cross-cultural understanding made him an activist. He worked for reforms in South Texas schools, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt named him the Southwest chair of the Fair Employment Practices Commission during World War II.

Castañeda died in 1958, and, fittingly, The University of Texas's main library now carries his name.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Carlos E. Castañeda. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Carlos E. Castañeda change the way historians view the history of the borderlands?

**He told the story of the Texas–Mexico borderlands as one of shared culture and heritage, rather than conflict and division.**

2. How did Castañeda's scholarship change the way people viewed the Texas Revolution?

**He rejected the idea that the revolt simply pitted Anglo Americans against Mexicans. Rather, he presented the revolution as a struggle in which a diverse group of rebels, Mexicans and Anglos, fought against dictatorship.**

**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.** Why is writing a more inclusive history of Texas important?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**





## 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 Jane McManus Storm Cazneau. Then, answer questions about it.

### Jane McManus Storm Cazneau 1807–1878

Writer and promoter Jane Cazneau helped shape Texas and American history in the mid-nineteenth century.

Cazneau was born in New York in 1807. Working as a journalist in the 1840s and 50s, she campaigned tirelessly for Texas independence. Her columns in periodicals such as the *New York Sun* helped sway public opinion in support of Texas statehood—and America’s “manifest destiny” more generally. Cazneau’s campaign was hardly selfless. She speculated in Texas land and, in 1834, even explored the possibility of settling her family in Stephen F. Austin’s colony.

In 1850, she and her husband moved to Eagle Pass to open a trade depot and explore mining opportunities along the border. She later wrote a memoir recounting her experiences. Of Texas, she wrote, “There is no country under the sun in which a sober, sensible, and industrious man can more certainly realise a quick independence and a delightful home.”

During the Mexican War, Cazneau became an unofficial diplomat when President James K. Polk sent her on a secret peace mission to Mexico City. She became the only American journalist to issue dispatches from behind enemy lines.

In later years, Cazneau lived mostly in the Dominican Republic, where she continued to promote American expansion. She passed away in 1878. One historian has since remembered her as “perhaps the most unusual and mysterious woman” in nineteenth-century America.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Jane McManus Storm Cazneau. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Jane McManus Storm Cazneau shape Texas’s history?  
**Her columns in periodicals such as the *New York Sun* helped sway public opinion in support of Texas statehood—and America’s “manifest destiny” more generally.**
2. What role did Cazneau play during the Mexican-American War?  
**Cazneau became an unofficial diplomat when President James K. Polk sent her on a secret peace mission to Mexico City. She became the only American journalist to issue dispatches from behind enemy lines.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** What is manifest destiny? How does Cazneau’s writing support this idea?  
**The belief that Americans were destined to expand across the continent and spread their ideals. “There is no country under the sun in which a sober, sensible, and industrious man can more certainly realise a quick independence and a delightful home.”**



## 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 John Saunders Chase Jr.. Then, answer questions about it.

### John Saunders Chase Jr. 1925–2012

On June 5, 1950, the U. S. Supreme Court issued a ruling desegregating graduate and professional schools in Texas. Two days later, twenty-five-year-old John Saunders Chase became the first African American to enroll in The University of Texas's master's program in architecture. Chase earned his degree two years later. He soon became the first licensed African American architect in Texas.

In a distinguished career spanning more than five decades, Chase designed buildings throughout southeast and central Texas, including many Black churches, homes, and businesses. His style was distinctly modern, inspired by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Chase's buildings have clean lines and bright, open public spaces—their designs guided not by tradition, but rather by the needs of the individuals and communities they would serve.

As Chase gained success, he took on larger public projects that included multiple buildings on the Texas Southern University campus and, in collaboration with other architects, Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center and the 1988 Astrodome renovation.

Chase's legacy extends beyond his buildings. In 1971, he co-founded the National Organization of Minority Architects. As a member of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, he helped select Maya Lin to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

Chase died in 2012. He is remembered as a professional and civic leader and one of Texas's most important progressive architects.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on John Saunders Chase Jr.. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. John Saunders Chase Jr. became the first African American to enroll in graduate school at The University of Texas at Austin. What subject did he study?

**He studied architecture.**

2. Describe Chase's architectural style.

**Chase had a modern style, inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright. Their designs were guided by the needs of the people the buildings would serve.**

**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 are the most important human needs to keep in mind when designing buildings? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Sarah Horton Cockrell. Then, answer questions about it.

### Sarah Horton Cockrell 1819–1892

In 1847, Sarah Horton Cockrell began married life in a tent on Mountain Creek Lake, a few miles west of the fledgling town of Dallas. Over the four decades that followed, she played a pivotal role in the young city's economic development.

Cockrell was born in Virginia in 1819 and moved with her family to Texas in her early twenties. In 1847, she married Alexander Cockrell, a businessman who purchased the last remaining building lots of the Dallas settlement.

The couple moved to Dallas, where Alexander opened a sawmill and a gristmill. Sarah kept her husband's business records and handled his correspondence and money, since Alexander was unable to read or write.

In 1858, after Alexander was killed in a gunfight, Sarah took over—and soon expanded—the family's business enterprises. She built one of the city's first hotels. She bought a flour mill at a time when flour milling was the city's major industry. In 1872, she raised funds to open the first iron bridge over the Trinity River, thereby connecting Dallas to major roads south and west.

Along with her sons, Cockrell amassed a large and diverse portfolio of Dallas real estate. By the time of her death in 1892, she owned almost a fourth of the city's downtown. She is now remembered as "Dallas's first capitalist."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Sarah Horton Cockrell. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Sarah Horton Cockrell expand her family's business ventures?

**She built one of the city's first hotels. She bought a flour mill at a time when flour milling was the city's major industry. In 1872, she raised funds to open the first iron bridge over the Trinity River, thereby connecting Dallas to major roads south and west.**

2. How much real estate did Cockrell own at the time of her death?

**Almost a fourth of the city's downtown**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Cockrell was an integral part of raising funds to build an iron bridge over the Trinity River. Why were road systems so important to the development of major cities like Dallas?

**Well connected roads were key to the transportation of people and goods.**



## 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 Henry Cohen. Then, answer questions about it.

### Henry Cohen 1863–1952

Rabbi Henry Cohen once said, “Other men play golf for recreation. My hobby is helping people.” For many years, he could be seen pedaling around Galveston on a bicycle, a list of people to visit—prisoners, the poor, the sick—scribbled on his shirt cuff.

Born in London, Cohen served congregations in Jamaica and Mississippi before arriving in Galveston in 1888. His home at 1920 Broadway became known as a place where needy people of any religion could seek help. He wrote books on Texas Jewish history in his spare time.

When the 1900 hurricane demolished most of the city and left thousands dead, Cohen sprang into action, delivering food and medical supplies in a mule-drawn wagon. Despite receiving offers to leave Galveston for more thriving communities, Cohen refused to abandon the city he had come to love.

Cohen is perhaps best known for his role in the Galveston Movement, which brought Jewish immigrants into the Port of Galveston to settle throughout Texas and the Midwest. Cohen met immigrants at the dock and provided advice and assistance, sometimes purchasing clothing and supplies for them with his own money.

In the 1920s, Cohen campaigned for prison reform in Texas, advocating vocational training and improved conditions.

In honor of Cohen’s lifetime of charitable work and dedication to social justice, President Woodrow Wilson called him the “foremost citizen of Texas.”

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

1. Give three examples of how Rabbi Henry Cohen helped people in his community.  
**Student answer to include three of the following: delivered food and medical supplies in a mule-drawn wagon after the Galveston hurricane in 1900, met immigrants at the dock and provided advice and assistance, purchased clothing and supplies for immigrants with his own money, campaigned for prison reform in Texas, advocating vocational training and improved conditions**
2. What is the Galveston Movement, and how did Cohen participate in it?  
**A movement that brought Jewish immigrants into the Port of Galveston to settle throughout Texas and the Midwest**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Why might Jewish immigrants have come to America in the early twentieth century?  
**Jewish immigrants may have been fleeing antisemitic rioting in Eastern Europe.**



## 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 Bessie Coleman. Then, answer questions about it.

### **Bessie Coleman 1892–1926**

Born to a sharecropping family in Northeast Texas in 1892, Bessie Coleman became the world's first female African American aviator.

Coleman spent her childhood in Waxahachie. After moving to Chicago in her twenties, she heard thrilling stories about World War I pilots and decided she, too, wanted to fly.

Coleman's race and gender barred her admission into American flight schools. Undeterred, she learned French and attended aviation school in France. In 1921, the same year Amelia Earhart began taking flying lessons, Coleman earned her international pilot's license.

Coleman returned to the U.S. and quickly became a sensation. Her daredevil feats in air shows captivated crowds and earned her the nickname "Brave Bessie."

An advocate for equal rights, Coleman encouraged young African Americans to fly. She dreamed of opening a Black aviation school and refused to participate in air shows that didn't allow Black people to attend.

In 1926, Coleman died in an accident while taking a test flight at a Florida air show. But her example remained a powerful inspiration for others. In 1929, a flying school for Black aviators was founded in Coleman's honor in Los Angeles, ensuring her legacy as a pioneer in aviation and civil rights.

Today, you will find roads named for Bessie Coleman at airports in Chicago, Illinois; Oakland, California; Frankfurt, Germany; and Atlanta, Texas, the town where she was born.

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

1. What inspired Bessie Coleman to become an aviator?

**She heard thrilling stories about World War I pilots.**

2. Why was Coleman prohibited from attending flight school in the United States?

**Coleman's race and gender barred her admission into flight schools.**

**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.** According to the episode, Coleman's nickname was "Brave Bessie" because she liked to perform daredevil feats in the air. How else might that nickname fit her?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode**

**Most likely answer: She was a trailblazer and became the world's first female African American aviator in the face of adversity.**



## 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 Francisco Vázquez de Coronado. Then, answer questions about it.

### Francisco Vázquez de Coronado 1510–1554

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado led the first Spanish expedition into the Great Plains.

Embarking in 1540, the expedition traveled to the New Mexican pueblos, searching for the golden cities of Cibola reported by fellow explorer Fray Marcos de Niza. However, as Coronado wrote, “Everything the friar had said was found to be the opposite.” Instead of finding another metropolis like Tenochtitlan the Spaniards encountered only modest farming villages.

Native guides then regaled the explorers with tales of the city of Quivira further inland in modern-day Kansas. The Spaniards set off across the vast, flat grasslands of the Llano Estacado and into the Great Plains to find riches but again came away disappointed.

After more than two years away, Coronado returned to Mexico. He and his companions were the first Europeans to see massive herds of American bison, Palo Duro Canyon, and the land that is now the Texas Panhandle. As one historian put it, his expedition was “one of the most remarkable ... recorded in the annals of American history.” Coronado “added to the world as known to Europeans an [enormous] extent of country.”

Nevertheless, Coronado and others viewed the expedition as a failure. He resumed his position as councilman in Mexico City and died in 1554. Spaniards would return to New Mexico soon enough but would not complete their conquest of Texas for another century.

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

1. What was the goal of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's expedition?

**He wanted to find the golden cities of Cibola.**

2. What sights was Coronado the first European to see?

**Coronado was the first European to see herds of American bison, Palo Duro Canyon, and the lands of the Texas Panhandle.**

**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.** Why might Coronado have considered his expedition a failure?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode. Most likely answer: he did not find any gold or other treasure.**



## 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 Juanita Jewel Shanks Craft. Then, answer questions about it.

### Juanita Jewel Shanks Craft 1902–1985

In 1918, sixteen-year-old Juanita Craft accompanied her critically ill mother to a tuberculosis treatment facility in San Angelo. They arrived at the hospital after a long journey, only to be turned away because of their race. Craft's mother died two months later. That tragedy spurred Craft—whose grandparents had been enslaved—to a lifelong fight against racial discrimination.

As a young woman, Craft studied at Prairie View A&M. She later settled in Dallas, finding work as a bell maid at the posh Adolphus Hotel.

In the 1930s, she joined the Dallas chapter of the NAACP and ultimately traversed the state, helping to organize and revive local chapters. One observer, inspired by Craft's energy and eloquence, reported that her visits were like "a blood transfusion to a very weak patient."

Craft also became a mentor to Dallas's Black youth. She led them in anti-segregation protests at restaurants, stores, and the State Fair, always preaching the importance of communication and respect for others. "Build a bridge," she advised. "Then carry them over to your side."

Craft herself built many bridges in Dallas, often at potluck dinners in her backyard. In her seventies, she served on the city council. Among her many accolades, she received the Linz Award, Dallas's highest honor for efforts benefitting the city. Craft remained a champion for civil rights until her death in 1985.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Juanita Jewel Shanks Craft. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What tragic event inspired Juanita Jewel Shanks Craft to fight against racial discrimination?

**Her mother died of tuberculosis because a treatment facility refused to admit her based on her race.**

2. What civil rights organization did Craft join and help to revive?

**The NAACP**

**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.** Craft put a great deal of effort into building relationships with people to work with them to support her cause. Do you agree that it is important to build relationships with people you are hoping to influence? Why or why not?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Walter Leland Cronkite Jr. Then, answer questions about it.

### Walter Leland Cronkite Jr. 1916–2009

Newscaster Walter Cronkite—once known as “the most trusted man in America”—launched his career in Texas. Born in Missouri in 1916, Cronkite moved to Houston at age ten and discovered journalism in high school. He was a student reporter at The University of Texas before pursuing journalism full-time.

Cronkite earned national recognition during World War II, covering the fighting in Europe for the United Press. After the war, he moved to television, ultimately becoming the anchorman for the CBS Evening News in 1962.

For two decades, there was scarcely a story Cronkite didn't cover: President Kennedy's assassination, the moon landings, Watergate. Whenever earthshaking events occurred, most television viewers learned about them from Cronkite, and his reporting became closely associated with the average American's point of view. In 1968, when he stated that the Vietnam War was probably unwinnable, President Johnson reportedly said that if he'd lost Walter Cronkite, he'd lost middle America.

Cronkite retired from the CBS Evening News in 1981 but remained a vocal advocate of journalism's role in preserving democracy. He wrote in his autobiography, “The First Amendment, with its guarantees of free speech and a free press, has been at the heart of the American success story.”

Before his death in 2009, Cronkite gave the collected papers from his remarkable fifty-year career to the Briscoe Center for American History at UT Austin.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Walter Leland Cronkite Jr. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did Walter Leland Cronkite Jr. first earn national recognition?

**During World War II, covering fighting in Europe for the United Press**

2. Cronkite's reporting was said to be closely associated with what viewpoint?

**The average American or--"middle America"**

**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.** Do you think journalists today are "the most trusted" people in America? Why or why not?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**





## 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 Norris Wright Cuney. Then, answer questions about it.

### Norris Wright Cuney 1846–1898

African American leader Norris Wright Cuney forged a remarkable career in post-Civil War Texas. Born into slavery in 1846, he nonetheless studied law and became a civic and political force in the years following Reconstruction.

Cuney was the child of Adeline Stuart, who was enslaved on a Hempstead plantation, and Stuart's enslaver, Philip Minor Cuney. At thirteen, Cuney's father freed him and sent him north for education.

Following the Civil War, Cuney returned to Texas, to the bustling port city of Galveston, then Texas's most cosmopolitan city. There, he steadily gained experience and political sway. Over the course of his career, he served as city alderman, collector of customs, and school inspector for Galveston County. In 1886, he was named the Republican Party's national committeeman from Texas.

Cuney used his education, political connections, and wealth to improve the lives of formerly enslaved people in Texas. He worked to establish and fund schools and colleges for black Texans and opposed segregation in public schools. He also helped organize and lead the African American Masons. In the 1880s, he helped Black laborers loading cotton on the Galveston docks form their own union and fight for equal pay.

Cuney died in 1898 but is still remembered in Galveston, where the city's Wright Cuney Park stands as a monument to this extraordinary civic leader.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Norris Wright Cuney. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What occupations did Norris Wright Cuney hold during his career?

**He served as city alderman, collector of customs, and school inspector for Galveston County.**

2. What did Cuney do to improve the lives of formerly enslaved Texans?

**He worked to establish and fund schools and colleges for Black Texans and opposed segregation in public schools. He also helped organize and lead the African American Masons. In the 1880s, he helped Black laborers loading cotton on the Galveston docks form their own union and fight for equal pay.**

**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.** Why do you think Cuney focused on supporting education for formerly enslaved people in Texas?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: His mother was an enslaved person and he was born into slavery.**



## 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 Minnie Fisher Cunningham. Then, answer questions about it.

### Minnie Fisher Cunningham 1882–1964

Working as a pharmacist in Huntsville in 1901, young Minnie Fisher Cunningham discovered that her untrained male colleagues made twice her salary. That unfairness, she later explained, “made a suffragette out of me.” Cunningham soon gave up pharmacy and put her energy and keen sense of justice to work for progressive causes. She helped pass pure milk laws and other public health legislation but knew that truly to improve society, women must have the right to vote.

In 1910, Cunningham became president of the Galveston Equal Suffrage Association and was soon leading the cause statewide. Her efforts helped Texas women win the right to vote in state primary elections in 1918. But the victory did not come easily. She succeeded by forging savvy political alliances and spending endless hours building grassroots support.

Women in the United States achieved full suffrage in 1920, with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. But for Cunningham, the right to vote was only a first step. She went on to help found the National League of Women Voters, and, in 1928, was the first Texas woman to run for the United States Senate. During World War II, she worked for the Roosevelt administration, and it was President Franklin D. Roosevelt who gave her the nickname “Minnie Fish.”

Cunningham was active in the Democratic Party until her death in 1964. But every woman who votes, regardless of party, owes Texas’s “Minnie Fish” a debt of gratitude.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Minnie Fisher Cunningham. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What caused Minnie Fisher Cunningham to become a suffragist?

**Minnie Fisher Cunningham discovered that her untrained male colleagues made twice her salary.**

2. Cunningham was the first Texas woman to do what?

**She was the first Texas woman to run for the United States Senate.**

**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.** Based on your reading of the episode, why would Cunningham have considered winning the right to vote “only a first step”?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: She continued to work to strengthen women voting and involvement in politics.**



## 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 Edmund Jackson Davis. Then, answer questions about it.

### Edmund Jackson Davis 1827–1883

Governor Edmund Davis played a critical role in reconstructing Texas after the Civil War. He championed the constitutional rights of formerly enslaved Texans, established the state's Republican Party, and instituted a centralized system of public education. Yet these accomplishments barely survived him.

Before the Civil War, Davis was a lawyer and judge in South Texas. When secessionist fever struck in the 1850s, Davis sided with Sam Houston in opposing attempts to remove Texas from the Union. When Texas seceded, Davis left the state to meet with Abraham Lincoln and formed a cavalry regiment with the U.S. Army. He fought in Union attempts to retake Galveston, Sabine Pass, and Brownsville, earning promotion to brigadier general.

After the war, Davis joined fellow unionists to re-establish state government through the federal program of Reconstruction. As president of the 1868 constitutional convention, Davis sought a new political order that ensured equality under the law for all Texans, regardless of race.

In 1869, Davis won the Texas governorship, the first Republican elected to the office. However, political turmoil marred his term, as he sought to defend African American voting rights in the face of violent opposition. Davis lost the controversial election of 1873 to Richard Coke, ending Reconstruction in Texas and reversing most of Davis's reforms. He died ten years later, his agenda left for future generations to accomplish.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Edmund Jackson Davis. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Who did Edmund Jackson Davis side with in the question of whether Texas should secede from the Union?

**Davis sided with Sam Houston and opposed secession from the Union.**

2. What office was Davis elected to after the Civil War?

**Davis was elected as Texas governor—the first Republican to hold that office.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Based on what you know about Reconstruction in Texas, why was Davis's time in office so difficult?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode and what they know from classroom studies. Most likely answer: Opinions about the future of the state, the rights of people, and how they should be governed were still bitterly divided even after the conclusion of the Civil War.**



## 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 Mollie Evelyn Moore Davis. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mollie Evelyn Moore Davis 1844–1909

Born in 1844, Mollie Evelyn Moore Davis was one of the most important Texas writers of the nineteenth century.

Davis's family moved to Texas from Alabama when she was eleven. Just five years later, the *Tyler Reporter* published one of her poems.

In the 1870s, Davis began writing for national audiences about postbellum Texas and Louisiana. Her short fiction appeared in such magazines as *Harper's* and *The Atlantic*. She also wrote children's stories, plays, and novels.

While Davis's Louisiana tales enjoyed great popularity, critics praise her Texas fiction for its vivid and detailed depiction of life in the state.

Her 1896 novel *Under the Man-Fig* portrays events along the Texas Gulf Coast during and after the Civil War. Four years later, Davis published *The Wire-Cutters*, a novel set during the Texas fence-cutting wars of the 1880s, when ranchers began restricting access to large sections of the previously open range. *The Wire-Cutters* is now recognized as one of the first "westerns" in American literary history.

Davis lived principally in New Orleans from 1879 to her death in 1909. But she maintained a lifelong fascination with her former home state. Texas history, she once wrote, "is a story of knightly romance which calls the poet, even as, in earlier days, the Land of Tehas called across its borders the dreamers of dreams."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mollie Evelyn Moore Davis. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Mollie Evelyn Moore Davis's novel *The Wire-Cutters* is known as the first of what type of literature?

***The Wire-Cutters* is now recognized as one of the first "westerns" in American literary history.**

2. What types of fiction did Davis write?

**Poems, short fiction, children's stories, plays, and novels**

**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.** What invention led to the "fence-cutting wars" that inspired Mollie Evelyn Moore Davis's novel *The Wire-Cutters*?

**Barbed wire fencing**



## 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 Martín De León. Then, answer questions about it.

### Martín De León 1765–1834

Empresario Martín De León founded the city of Victoria and played a key role in settling the Texas Coastal Bend.

De León was born in 1765 to an aristocratic family in Burgos, Mexico. After serving as a soldier, De León married and planned to settle his new family in Texas. In 1801, the couple began building a ranch along the Nueces River near present-day San Patricio.

When Mexico began issuing empresario contracts to attract settlers, De León saw an opportunity to ensure that his children could establish ranches of their own. In 1824, he founded a colony centered on the new city of Victoria. De León oversaw the only empresario grant to attract large numbers of settlers from Mexico rather than the United States.

As tensions rose between Anglo American colonists and the Mexican government, De León forged a neutral path—although he and his family supported local control in Texas affairs.

De León died in the cholera epidemic of 1834, two years before the Republic of Texas was established. Though his family had sided with the victorious rebels, Anglos in the new republic made life difficult for their former Tejano allies. The De León family fled into exile in Louisiana, returning to the city they founded only after Texas's annexation to the United States in 1845.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Martín De León. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was different about the people that settled in Martín De León's colony when compared to other Texas settlers?

**De León oversaw the only empresario grant to attract large numbers of settlers from Mexico rather than the United States.**

2. How was De León's family treated in the new Republic of Texas?

**Though his family had sided with the victorious rebels, Anglos in the new republic made life difficult for their former Tejano allies. The De León family fled into exile in Louisiana.**

**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.** Why do you think De León did not take a position at the beginning of conflict between Anglo American colonists and Mexico?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Green and Sarah DeWitt. Then, answer questions about it.

### **Green and Sarah DeWitt 1787–1835 (G); 1787–1854 (S)**

Among the most important Anglo settlements in Spanish Texas was DeWitt's Colony, founded in 1825 by Green DeWitt and James Kerr along the Guadalupe River.

Before coming to Texas, DeWitt fought in the War of 1812 with the Missouri militia. By 1821, DeWitt was aware that Moses Austin had obtained a grant to bring colonists to Spanish Texas. DeWitt petitioned Mexican authorities for a similar grant and eventually received an empresario contract to establish a settlement of his own.

DeWitt and his wife Sarah moved their family to the colony in 1826. But the colony soon struggled, and by 1831, DeWitt had lost his contract. Sarah, however, successfully petitioned the Mexican government for a land grant in her maiden name of Seely as a hedge against her husband's misfortunes. In 1835, Green DeWitt died while in Mexico to purchase land for future settlements.

Soon after his death, Sarah played a role in the first battle of the Texas Revolution. As Mexican authorities threatened to retrieve a cannon they had given to Gonzales citizens, Sarah cut up her daughter Naomi's wedding dress to create the famous banner that bore the daring slogan "Come and Take It."

Sarah Seely DeWitt is now buried in a cemetery named for her husband south of Gonzales, on land that the Mexican government once granted her.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Green and Sarah DeWitt. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Sarah DeWitt protect her family's interests after their first attempt at a colony failed?  
**Sarah successfully petitioned the Mexican government for a land grant in her maiden name of Seely as a hedge against her husband's misfortunes.**

2. What did Green DeWitt do before coming to Texas?  
**Fought in the War of 1812 with the Missouri militia**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Sarah DeWitt played an important role in settling Texas and supporting the Texas Revolution. How did she challenge common stereotypes about women?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: She owned a land grant.**



## 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 Susanna Dickinson. Then, answer questions about it.

### Susanna Dickinson 1814–1883

On a cold March dawn in 1836, Mexican officers escorted a shaken young woman and her infant daughter past the heaps of dead in the Alamo courtyard to Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. The woman, Susanna Dickinson, was the wife of Alamo defender Almaron Dickinson. She and her baby were hiding in the Alamo's chapel when Mexican troops bayoneted her husband and took the mission.

Dickinson had come to Texas with her husband from Tennessee in 1831, when she was seventeen. They settled in Gonzales, where their daughter Angelina was born. In 1835, Mexican and Texian troops clashed near Gonzales, and the Texas Revolution began. Almaron volunteered with the Texians, and his small family soon joined him at the Alamo. There, they waited for reinforcements that never came.

After the Alamo fell on March 6, 1836, Santa Anna sent Susanna and her daughter to Gonzales to warn Texians about the strength of the Mexican army. That sparked the Runaway Scrape, as settlers fled eastward ahead of Santa Anna's advancing troops. Sam Houston's victory over the Mexican Army at San Jacinto, the following month, ended the war.

After the war, Dickinson endured a string of unsuccessful marriages before finally marrying merchant J. W. Hannig in 1857. She remained with him until her death in 1883, and is buried next to him in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

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

1. Why were Susanna Dickinson and her daughter Angelina in the Alamo?

**Susanna Dickinson was the wife of Alamo defender Almaron Dickinson. She and her baby were hiding in the Alamo's chapel when Mexican troops bayoneted her husband and took the mission.**

2. Why did Santa Anna allow Dickinson to leave after the Alamo fell?

**Santa Anna sent Susanna and her daughter to Gonzales to warn Texians about the strength of the Mexican army.**

**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.** During the Runaway Scrape, Texians had only moments to decide what they could bring with them. What would you have chosen to bring with you and why?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 James Franck Dobie. Then, answer questions about it.

### James Franck Dobie 1888–1964

Called the “Storyteller of the Southwest,” James Frank Dobie was born in 1888 on his family’s cattle ranch in Live Oak County. During his long life, he would live astride two worlds: a rugged life on a Texas cattle ranch and the state’s modern centers of scholarly learning.

Dobie came to Austin in 1914 to teach at The University of Texas at Austin. In time he pioneered an influential course on the literature of the Southwest. By the late 1920s, Dobie discovered his mission: to record and publicize the disappearing folklore of Texas and the greater Southwest. Dobie became secretary of the Texas Folklore Society, a position he held for twenty-one years.

Dobie was a new kind of folklorist—a progressive activist. He called for UT to admit African American students in the 1940s, long before the administration favored integration. Dobie’s vocal politics led to his leaving the university in 1947, but he continued writing until his death in 1964, publishing over twenty books and countless articles.

The inscription on Dobie’s headstone in the Texas State Cemetery reads: “I have come to value liberated minds as the supreme good of life on earth.” J. Frank Dobie was not content to simply preserve Southwestern heritage within libraries and museums. He gave life to that heritage and informed generations of Texans about their rich history.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on James Franck Dobie. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What “two worlds” did J. Frank Dobie inhabit?

**A rugged life on a Texas cattle ranch and the state’s modern centers of scholarly learning.**

2. Why was Dobie called a “progressive activist”?

**He was politically vocal in writing about progressive ideals.**

**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.** According to the episode, why do you think Dobie left UT Austin in 1947?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: His politics, including calling on UT to admit African American students in the 1940s, long before the administration favored integration.**





## 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 Clara Driscoll. Then, answer questions about it.

### Clara Driscoll 1881–1945

“Remember the Alamo” was the rallying cry of the Texians fighting in the 1836 Battle of San Jacinto.

It is often forgotten that by 1903, the Alamo’s neglected convent and courtyard were nearly torn down and replaced by a hotel. The state government, having already purchased the mission’s church, refused to pay for the rest of the grounds—even though they were the scene of much of the 1836 battle.

At that point, twenty-two-year-old Clara Driscoll, whose grandfather had fought in the battle of San Jacinto, stepped forward with her own money to thwart the hotel developers. She collaborated with the San Antonio chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas under the leadership of Adina de Zavala to protect the mission. For her generosity, Driscoll is known as the “Savior of the Alamo.”

Driscoll was born in 1881, the only daughter of Corpus Christi millionaire Robert Driscoll. Educated in Europe, Clara understood the importance of preserving historical sites. “By the care of our eloquent but voiceless monuments,” she wrote, “we are preparing a noble inspiration for our future.”

Driscoll is also remembered for the beautiful Laguna Gloria villa she and her husband built on the Colorado River in Austin. This mansion and its grounds became the original home of the Austin Museum of Art. But it is Driscoll’s rescue of the Alamo, “the shrine of Texas Independence and glory,” as she described it, that is best remembered. When Driscoll died in 1945, her body lay in state at the mission’s chapel, in recognition of her work to preserve it.

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

1. What was Clara Driscoll’s connection to the Texas Revolution?

**Her grandfather had fought in the battle of San Jacinto.**

2. What experience showed Driscoll the importance of preserving historical sites?

**She was educated in Europe.**

**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.** What is a shrine and why would Driscoll consider the Alamo “the shrine of Texas Independence and glory”?

**A shrine is a sacred place in connection with an important event of the divine. The Battle of the Alamo, an important event in the Texas Revolution, took place at the Alamo. It also ties in to the Alamo as a mission.**



## 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 William J. Durham. Then, answer questions about it.

### William J. Durham 1896–1970

William J. Durham was born to a family of sharecroppers near Sulphur Springs in 1896. When his father took young Willie to see a trial at the local courthouse, an attorney so impressed the boy that he decided he would someday be a lawyer. He ultimately became Texas's leading civil rights attorney for more than three decades.

After serving in World War I, Durham got married and moved to Sherman, where he established his legal practice. In 1930, a lynch mob burned the courthouse and the Black business district, including Durham's office, but Durham confronted the mob and saved his house.

Durham moved to Dallas in 1943, where his lucrative corporate practice enabled him to take on pro bono civil rights cases. As the resident counsel for the Texas NAACP, he filed scores of lawsuits to secure voting rights, the equalization of teachers' salaries, and the desegregation of schools, swimming pools, railroads, and golf courses.

Durham worked on a number of cases with Thurgood Marshall, who relied on Durham's thorough knowledge of Texas procedure. One of their landmark Supreme Court victories, *Smith v. Allwright*, outlawed the exclusion of African Americans from primary elections, while another, *Sweatt v. Painter*, desegregated The University of Texas Law School.

Durham fought tirelessly for equal rights throughout his career and served as a mentor to younger Black lawyers until his death in 1970.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on William J. Durham. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What event in his childhood inspired William J. Durham to become a lawyer?  
**His father took him to the courthouse where he saw a lawyer who impressed him.**
2. Name two Supreme Court cases that Durham worked on related to civil rights.  
***Smith v. Allwright* (1944); *Sweatt v. Painter* (1950)**

**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. **Creating Connections.** *Sweatt v. Painter* was argued in front of the Supreme Court in 1950. What later legal case also argued for desegregation of schools, and in what year was it decided?  
***Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, 1954***



## 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 José de Escandón. Then, answer questions about it.

### José de Escandón 1700–1770

José de Escandón was one of the most renowned colonizers in Spanish North America. In the mid-eighteenth century, he pioneered the colony of Nuevo Santander, which reached from Corpus Christi Bay to Tampico, Mexico, nearly five hundred miles to the south.

Born in Spain in 1700, Escandón left for the Yucatán at fifteen seeking a military career. He advanced quickly, earning a reputation as a fair, forceful leader on Mexico's northern frontier. In 1746, Spanish officials invited him to explore and govern a new province along the Gulf coast.

Escandón enticed settlers from the Mexican interior at a time when the missions and presidios of Texas struggled to do so. By 1755, he had established more than twenty communities including Reynosa, Mier, and Laredo. The origins of South Texas ranching trace back to these thriving settlements on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Escandón's activities drew envy, and adversaries accused him of exploiting both Spanish settlers and the region's natives. Escandón died while under investigation, his legacy in doubt. But Spanish officials ultimately dismissed the charges and made his son the province's new governor.

Today in the Rio Grande Valley, Escandón stands as a founding figure, on par with better-known empresarios such as Martín De León and Stephen F. Austin. Statues and historical markers throughout the region describe Escandón as the "Father of South Texas."

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

1. What was José de Escandón's reputation as a leader?

**He was known to be fair but forceful.**

2. What settlements started by Escandón were the origins of ranching in South Texas?

**Reynosa, Mier, and Laredo**

**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.** Why do you think Escandón is not as well known as some other Texas empresarios?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 James Walker Fannin. Then, answer questions about it.

### James Walker Fannin 1804–1836

James Fannin led the rebels massacred at Goliad in 1836. His defeat inspired the victory that secured Texas independence.

Fannin moved to Texas in 1834 from Georgia. When the Texas Revolution erupted in 1835, his ambition put him at the center of the action. With Jim Bowie, Fannin fought at the Battle of Concepción and participated in the siege of San Antonio.

Fannin then wanted to take the fight to Mexico by attacking Matamoros. However, when he learned that Santa Anna was preparing a massive invasion, he retired to the presidio at Goliad. There, he led the largest contingent of Texas rebels in the Mexican Army's path.

After the Alamo fell, Houston ordered Fannin to fall back from Goliad to Victoria. But Fannin hesitated, waiting five days to begin his retreat. Mexican forces overtook him at the Battle of Coleto. Though Mexican general José de Urrea sought mercy for his prisoners, Santa Anna stood firm in his orders. On Palm Sunday of 1836, the Mexican Army executed Fannin and more than three hundred of his men.

A few weeks later, when Houston finally engaged Mexican forces at the Battle of San Jacinto, cries of "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" spurred his men into battle. Victory and Texas independence followed, a legacy of Fannin's sacrifice.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on James Walker Fannin. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was James Fannin's role in the Texas Revolution?

**James Fannin led the rebels massacred at Goliad in 1836. His defeat inspired the victory that secured Texas independence.**

2. Why were Mexican forces able to overtake Fannin and his troops at the Battle of Coleto?

**After the Alamo fell, Houston ordered Fannin to fall back from Goliad to Victoria. Fannin hesitated, waiting five days to begin his retreat.**

**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.** After the Battle of Coleto, Santa Anna ordered the execution of Fannin and his men. Do you think if Santa Anna had shown mercy that the outcome of the war might have been different? Why or why not? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 James L. Farmer, Jr. Then, answer questions about it.

**James L. Farmer, Jr.  
1920–1999**

Civil rights leader James Farmer was born in Marshall, Texas, in 1920. He spent his childhood in Austin but returned to Marshall to attend Wiley College, where he joined the team of "great debaters" coached by legendary teacher Melvin Tolson. Though Farmer had intended to become a Methodist minister, Tolson's influence—and segregation within the church—led him to activism.

In 1942, Farmer organized the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in Chicago. A decade before the civil rights movement made headlines, CORE followed Gandhian principles of nonviolent direct action to fight racial discrimination. In 1961, CORE organized the Freedom Rides to desegregate bus travel. Farmer and twelve other activists, both Black and white, faced violence and jail time as they rode from Washington, DC, to New Orleans.

The Freedom Rides and the violence that erupted in response captured national attention. Black citizens across the nation joined the civil rights struggle, as did white activists in America and abroad. Within months, Attorney General Robert Kennedy issued an order banning segregation in interstate travel. Farmer later described the Freedom Rides as his "proudest achievement." CORE had pioneered the tactics that eventually dismantled segregation in the South.

Farmer retired from CORE in 1966 and turned to government service and teaching. In 1998, the year before his death, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on James L. Farmer, Jr. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did James L. Farmer, Jr. become an activist?

**He joined the team of "great debaters" coached by legendary teacher Melvin Tolson. Tolson's influence—and segregation within the church—led him to activism.**

2. What principles shaped how CORE challenged racial discrimination?

**CORE followed Gandhian principles of nonviolent direct action to fight racial discrimination.**

**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.** Why do you think Farmer called the Freedom Rides his proudest achievement?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: CORE had pioneered the tactics that eventually dismantled segregation in the South.**



## 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 Edna Ferber. Then, answer questions about it.

### Edna Ferber 1885–1968

In the 1920s and '30s, Edna Ferber was one of the most widely read writers in America. She won the Pulitzer Prize for her 1924 novel *So Big*. Another of her novels, *Show Boat*, became a popular musical and a hit film. But perhaps no other work of Ferber's is remembered as well—at least in Texas—as *Giant*.

Published in 1952, *Giant* tells the story of a young Virginia woman named Leslie Lynnton who marries a wealthy Texas cattle rancher. Readers see Texas through Leslie's critical eyes.

Texans' excessive spending and the state's "mania for bigness" are not overlooked by Leslie. She also points out the ranch's success depends on Mexican laborers, who are poorly paid and badly treated.

The *Dallas News* called *Giant* "a slander on Texas," and the *Texas Observer* pronounced it a "richly-conceived and rottenly written book."

But *Giant* became a success—as did the 1956 movie filmed in Marfa starring Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor, and James Dean, whose character was based on the flamboyant Houston oil tycoon Glenn McCarthy.

The film was especially popular in Texas. *Giant* set attendance records at Dallas's Majestic Theater. One reviewer wrote, "*Giant* was the biggest witch's broth . . . to hit . . . Texas since the revered Spindle blew its top."

Once hailed as one of America's greatest writers, Ferber's critical status has since faded. But her Texas epic remains a landmark in the state's cultural history.

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

1. In Texas, what is Edna Ferber's best-known work?

***Giant***

2. How did the initial reviews of the book in newspapers compare to its popularity with the public?

**The newspaper reviews were not favorable but it was very popular with the public especially in Texas.**

**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.** Why do you think Ferber chose *Giant* as the title of her book?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: The state's "mania for bigness."**



## 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 Miriam "Ma" Ferguson. Then, answer questions about it.

### Miriam "Ma" Ferguson 1875–1961

Miriam Amanda Wallace wasn't considering a career in politics when she enrolled at Baylor Female College in the 1890s. In 1899, she married James Ferguson and planned to settle down and raise a family. However, Miriam would make history, becoming the first woman governor of Texas.

Jim Ferguson was elected governor in 1914 and re-elected two years later. During his second term, he was impeached for misapplication of public funds and declared ineligible to hold public office in Texas.

A few years later, in 1924, Miriam stunned Texans when she announced she would run for governor. Promising "two governors for the price of one," Miriam became known as "Ma" Ferguson and urged voters to restore "Pa's" honor by voting for her.

During the campaign, Jim vowed to do the governing if Miriam won. Many women were furious at Jim's plan to govern over his wife's shoulder, but the unusual plan worked. At the age of forty-nine, "Ma" Ferguson became Texas governor.

Charges of corruption plagued Miriam's first term, and she lost a re-election bid. Six years later, Miriam ran again, this time successfully, returning to the Governor's Mansion for a second term.

Miriam "Ma" Ferguson retired from public office in 1935. Her political life was over but her place in Texas history was secure. Sixty years would pass before Texas elected Ann Richards as its second woman governor.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Miriam "Ma" Ferguson. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Miriam Ferguson make history in Texas?  
**She became the first woman governor of Texas.**
2. What was Ma Ferguson's campaign slogan?  
**The slogan was "two governors for the price of one."**

**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.** Why were some women upset at the plan proposed by the Fergusons when Miriam ran for governor in 1924?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Albert Horton Foote, Jr.. Then, answer questions about it.

### Albert Horton Foote, Jr. 1916–2009

The quiet cotton farming community of Wharton, Texas, is the touchstone for the career of playwright and screenwriter Horton Foote.

Born in 1916 and raised in Wharton, Foote first dreamed of becoming an actor. But he soon discovered his true genius lay in writing, not performing.

He began writing plays about everyday people living in small Texas towns like his boyhood home, and his work was praised for its authenticity. One critic compared him to William Faulkner, noting Foote's "ability to make his own corner of America stand for the whole."

In 1953, Foote's television drama *The Trip to Bountiful* aired on NBC to great acclaim. The story—about an elderly woman's determined journey back to the Texas town where she was born—was a Broadway hit, and later, a popular film.

Foote went on to win Academy Awards for his adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and for his original screenplay for the film *Tender Mercies*. In 1995, Foote received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

But no matter how wide an audience his work reached, Foote continued to write about the kind of people he knew from his childhood. "I believe very deeply in the human spirit," he once said. "I've known people that the world has thrown everything at. . . . And yet something about them retains a dignity. They face life and they don't ask quarters."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Albert Horton Foote, Jr.. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Name two awards that Albert Horton Foote, Jr. received for his writing.

**Academy Award and Pulitzer Prize for Drama**

2. How did Foote's experiences growing up shape him as a writer?

**He began writing plays about everyday people living in small Texas towns like his boyhood home. "I believe very deeply in the human spirit," he once said. "I've known people that the world has thrown everything at. . . . And yet something about them retains a dignity. They face life and they don't ask quarters."**

**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.** According to the episode, throughout his career, Foote "continued to write about the kind of people he knew from his childhood." What does that suggest about the strength of those early impressions? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**





## 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 O'Neil Ford. Then, answer questions about it.

### O'Neil Ford 1905–1982

In 1926, twenty-one-year-old O'Neil Ford began an apprenticeship in the Dallas office of architect David R. Williams. Ford had arrived from Denton lacking a formal education, but he possessed a keen eye for design, a talent for drawing, and the confidence and bravado of a showman.

As a young man, Ford had been impressed by the beauty and simplicity of the German vernacular architecture in Fredericksburg and Castroville. In Dallas, under the guidance of Williams, Ford began producing private residences and other structures that incorporated native materials and traditional crafts, with a sensitivity to natural setting and climate.

During his long career as an architect, Ford and his associates designed many notable homes, public buildings, and businesses in Texas and elsewhere. These include the Little Chapel in the Woods at Texas Women's University in Denton, the Tower of the Americas and Trinity University in San Antonio, and several buildings on the Texas Instruments campus in Richardson.

A champion of historic preservation, Ford decried architectural flamboyance and cliché. He was also a passionate advocate for education and the environment.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Ford to the National Council on the Arts.

Ford died in 1982, but his ethic of simplicity, integrity, and restraint continues to inspire. "Architecture is scale and proportion," he often said. "The rest is décor."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on O'Neil Ford. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did O'Neil Ford draw inspiration from as a young man?

**Ford had been impressed by the beauty and simplicity of the German vernacular architecture in Fredericksburg and Castroville.**

2. What were two of the famous buildings that Ford designed?

**Student answer should include two of the following: The Little Chapel in the Woods at Texas Women's University in Denton, the Tower of the Americas and Trinity University in San Antonio, and several buildings on the Texas Instruments campus in Richardson**

**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.** Ford did not have formal training, but he still achieved tremendous success. Of the factors mentioned in the episode, which do you think was most important to his success? Why?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Thomas Freeman. Then, answer questions about it.

### Thomas Freeman 1919–2020

Debate coach Thomas Freeman's motto was "what we do, we do well; what we don't do well, we don't do at all." Freeman mentored well, nurturing generations of Texas Southern University students and some of America's most notable leaders.

Born in 1919, Freeman first tried public speaking in the church. He pursued studies in divinity, and while lecturing at Morehouse College in 1947, he left a distinct impression on the then eighteen-year-old Martin Luther King Jr.

After graduating from the University of Chicago, Freeman moved to Houston in 1949 to teach at Texas Southern. He expected this to be a minor detour, but after the university asked him to coach the debate team, he would build a career there over six decades while also serving as pastor at Mount Horem Baptist Church.

In 1956, Freeman's debate team defeated Harvard in competition, bringing Texas Southern national acclaim. Among Freeman's debaters was future congresswoman Barbara Jordan, whose measured, authoritative style owed much to Freeman. And, while the 2007 film *The Great Debaters* was based on another storied Texas university debate team, its star Denzel Washington trained with Freeman for the role.

In 2019, Freeman celebrated his hundredth birthday at TSU with generations of his students. He passed away shortly thereafter. The TSU Debate Team continues to thrive, its debates a popular showcase for the school.

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

1. What future leader of the civil rights movement did Thomas Freeman make an impression on at a young age?

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

2. What did Freeman spend six decades doing at Texas Southern University?

**He coached the nationally acclaimed debate team.**

**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.** Why might good skills in debate be helpful for a politician like Freeman's mentee Barbara Jordan?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode and what they know from classroom studies.**



## 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 Matthew Gaines. Then, answer questions about it.

### Matthew Gaines 1840–1900

As one of Texas's first Black legislators, Matthew Gaines fought to secure constitutional rights and establish a system of public education for free Black Texans during Reconstruction.

Born enslaved in Louisiana in 1840, Gaines was sold into Texas as a young man. During the Civil War, he worked as a blacksmith in Fredericksburg after a failed attempt to escape to Mexico. He moved to Washington County when the war ended, where his civic role as a Baptist preacher led voters to elect him to the state senate in 1869.

As a state senator, Gaines championed issues important to Black Texans in the Reconstruction era. He was an advocate of free, integrated public education and pushed the legislature to accept the federal land grant that made possible the creation of Texas A&M University. He fought against voter intimidation and mob violence during the tumultuous 1870s.

Gaines's uncompromising advocacy for formerly enslaved Texans made him a targeted figure. Political opponents charged him with crimes, and though his spurious conviction was overturned, Gaines was declared ineligible for office upon his reelection in 1873. His political career ended, Gaines returned to Washington County and the pulpit. No longer a statewide public figure, he died unheralded in 1900.

In 2021, after a decades-long effort to commemorate his contributions to education in the state, Texas A&M dedicated a Matthew Gaines statue on its campus.

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

1. Describe Matthew Gaines's life prior to election to the state senate in 1869.

**Gaines was born enslaved and worked as a blacksmith in Fredericksburg during the Civil War. After the Civil War, he served as a Baptist preacher.**

2. Name two of the causes that Gaines fought for in his time as a state senator.

**Student answer should include two of the following: Free, integrated public education; accepting the federal land grant that created Texas A&M; advocating against voter intimidation and mob violence.**

**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 "spurious" mean?  
**"Spurious" means false or fake.**



## 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 Bernardo de Gálvez. Then, answer questions about it.

### **Bernardo de Gálvez 1746–1786**

Galveston takes its name from the Spanish official Bernardo de Gálvez. Gálvez never set foot on the island, but his actions along the Gulf Coast shaped the history of not only Texas but the entire United States.

Born in Spain in 1746, Gálvez came from a modest background, but his political fortunes rose upon following an ambitious uncle to Mexico. In 1770, during the Spanish conquest of the region, he led an offensive against the Apache in West Texas, drawing the attention of royal officials.

Gálvez was named governor of Spanish Louisiana in 1776, just as England's colonies erupted in revolt, and Gálvez began secretly sending supplies up the Mississippi to the Continental Army. When Spain officially entered the war on the American side in 1779, Gálvez's military victories along the Gulf Coast at Baton Rouge, Mobile, and Pensacola were critical in preventing Britain from focusing all of its power on the rebellious colonies. George Washington himself considered Gálvez's efforts a deciding factor in the Revolution.

Later, as governor of Cuba, Gálvez commissioned a new map of his coastal conquests, leading a surveyor to name Galveston Bay in his honor.

In 2014, the United States declared Gálvez an honorary citizen, a distinction the nation has granted only eight times—and a fitting tribute to a Spanish hero of the American Revolution.

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

1. What role did Bernardo de Gálvez play in the American Revolution?

**Gálvez first secretly sent supplies to the Continental Army then helped to secure victories along the Gulf Coast when Spain officially sided with the American colonies.**

2. What position did Gálvez hold after serving as governor of Spanish Louisiana?

**He was governor of Cuba.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Gálvez was declared an honorary U.S. citizen. Who else from Texas history would you honor in this way? Explain your choice.

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Héctor P. García. Then, answer questions about it.

### Héctor P. García 1914–1996

Physician and pioneering activist Héctor P. García was once described as "a man who in the space of one week delivers twenty babies, twenty speeches, and twenty thousand votes."

Born in Mexico in 1914, García grew up in Mercedes, Texas, in the lower Rio Grande Valley. He earned undergraduate and medical degrees from The University of Texas and served in the Army with distinction in World War II.

In 1946, García opened a medical practice in Corpus Christi, where he witnessed the struggles of veterans and migrant workers. His work inspired a lifetime commitment to social reform. García became known as the "doctor to the barrios," offering low- and no-cost treatment to impoverished patients.

In 1948, García founded the American GI Forum, organizing veterans to fight for educational and medical benefits, and later, against poll taxes and school segregation. A proud member of the Greatest Generation, García sought the inclusion of Mexican Americans into mainstream America.

In 1984, President Reagan awarded García the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. García was the first Mexican American ever to receive the honor.

A statue on the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi campus now stands as a memorial to García's legacy. It bears his personal motto, which is also the motto of the American GI Forum: "Education is our Freedom, and Freedom Should be Everybody's Business."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Héctor P. García. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What inspired Héctor P. García to work for social reform?

**In 1946, García opened a medical practice in Corpus Christi, where he witnessed the struggles of veterans and migrant workers.**

2. Why did Garcia found the American GI Forum?

**To organize veterans to fight for educational and medical benefits and against poll taxes and school segregation**

**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.** What do you think García meant when he said "Education is our Freedom, and Freedom Should be Everybody's Business"?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 John Nance Garner. Then, answer questions about it.

### John Nance Garner 1868–1967

In 1932, when John Nance Garner became the nation's thirty-second vice president, Texans were just beginning to exert influence and leadership at the national level.

Garner, however, was hardly a newcomer. He had served fifteen consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and was Speaker of the House when President Franklin D. Roosevelt chose him as his running mate.

Garner was born in 1868 in Red River County. He studied to become a lawyer and settled in Uvalde, where he was elected county judge. He later served in the state legislature, acquiring the nickname "Cactus Jack" for proposing the prickly pear blossom as the state flower.

Garner was elected to Congress in 1903. A party loyalist in the tradition of Southern Democrats, he spent his early terms quietly studying the political process and cultivating friendships and influence. In time, the cigar-chomping Texan became known as a master persuader and negotiator.

In his first vice presidential term, Garner employed these skills in steering New Deal legislation through Congress. But by 1937, he had grown critical of Roosevelt's liberal programs, pro-labor stance, and plans to expand the Supreme Court. Garner spent the next two years leading conservative opposition to New Deal proposals.

After a failed presidential run in 1940, Garner left Washington and retired to Uvalde. He died in 1967, just shy of his ninety-ninth birthday.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on John Nance Garner. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What national elected office did John Nance Garner hold?

**Vice President of the United States**

2. What parts of Roosevelt's New Deal legislation did Garner eventually oppose?

**He had become critical of Roosevelt's liberal programs, pro-labor stance, and plans to expand the Supreme Court.**

**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.** How do you think Garner's technique of quietly studying processes and cultivating friendships helped him as a politician? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode**

**Most likely answer: Political success relies on knowledge, persuasion, and negotiation. By studying processes, Garner knew how to take action, and relationships made persuasion and negotiation easier or at least achievable.**



## 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 Henry B. González. Then, answer questions about it.

### Henry B. González 1916–2000

Longtime congressman and civil rights pioneer Henry B. González—affectionately known by his constituents as “Henry B.”—was born in San Antonio in 1916.

González’s political career began in the fifties, when he served on the San Antonio City Council and, later, in the Texas Senate. He made his name by speaking out against segregation and fighting rate hikes by public utilities. In 1957, he and fellow senator Abraham Kazen stopped a collection of pro-segregation bills with a thirty-six-hour filibuster—the longest ever in the Texas Senate.

In 1961, González became the first Mexican American to represent Texas in Congress. There, the former boxer maintained his gruff, pugnacious style, and stubborn commitment to economic justice and equality for all Americans.

An expert on the nation’s banking system, González oversaw the 1989 savings and loan bailout in the aftermath of what was then the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. He also led efforts to overhaul public housing and increase transparency at the Federal Reserve. In principle González believed in working within the system to effect change, but in practice he pulled no punches.

González was reelected eighteen times and became the longest-serving Hispanic member of Congress. When he retired in 1999, Congressman Jim Leach of Iowa remarked that González “never had a conflict of interest. . . . His only special interest was his constituents. He never let them down.”

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Henry B. González. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Henry B. González make a name for himself early in his political career?

**He made his name by speaking out against segregation and fighting rate hikes by public utilities.**

2. What distinction did González earn in 1961?

**In 1961, González became the first Mexican American to represent Texas in Congress.**

**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.** According to the episode, “González believed in working within the system to effect change.” Do you think that is the best way to accomplish change? Why or why not?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Jovita González. Then, answer questions about it.

### Jovita González 1904–1983

Born in 1904 on her grandparents' ranch in Roma, Texas, pioneering folklorist and educator Jovita González felt a deep commitment to the people and culture of South Texas.

While attending The University of Texas in at Austin, González met J. Frank Dobie, who encouraged her to begin writing for folklore publications. She soon began traveling throughout Cameron, Starr, and Zapata counties, interviewing residents of the borderlands.

González carried a letter of introduction from San Antonio's archbishop and often knitted during her interviews, putting her subjects at ease. She captured the voices of ordinary Mexican Americans seeking to preserve their cultural traditions during a period of tumultuous change.

In 1930, the same year she received her master's degree in history, González became the first Mexican American president of the Texas Folklore Society.

González was also a teacher. With her husband, she authored several sets of Spanish textbooks and helped establish the Spanish language program in Corpus Christi's public schools.

Today, González's legacy includes two novels published after her death, *Dew on the Thorn* and *Caballero*. Discovered by scholars among her papers, these historical romances detail turbulent racial conflicts of the Texas-Mexico border. But they also highlight the focus of her life's work—documenting what she once described as “the beauty of faith, of lore, and of tradition, amidst the sufferings of life.”

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

1. What subject matter did Jovita González focus on in her folklore interviews?

**The people and culture of South Texas**

2. Beyond collecting folklore, how did González contribute to the study of Spanish language and culture?

**González was also a teacher. With her husband, she authored several sets of Spanish textbooks and helped establish the Spanish language program in Corpus Christi's public schools.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** González interviewed Mexican Americans to help preserve their “cultural traditions during a period of tumultuous change.” What was happening at that time that caused this change?

**The Mexican Revolution**





## 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 Charles Goodnight. Then, answer questions about it.

### Charles Goodnight 1836–1929

Charles Goodnight liked to point out he was born in 1836, the year the Republic of Texas was founded, and moved here in 1845, the year Texas joined the United States. A legendary rancher and trailblazer, Goodnight became known as the "father of the Texas Panhandle."

Goodnight was nine years old when his family arrived in Texas from Illinois. He served as a frontier scout and Texas Ranger in his youth, then entered the cattle business at the age of twenty.

In the 1860s, Goodnight and partner Oliver Loving established the Goodnight-Loving cattle trail, which curled northwest from Texas into New Mexico and Colorado. Their friendship and adventures formed the basis of Larry McMurtry's epic novel *Lonesome Dove*.

The following decade, Goodnight and partner John Adair built the JA Ranch—the first ranch in the Panhandle. There, Goodnight bred new strains of cattle and was one of the first Texas ranchers to use barbed wire. The JA Ranch eventually grew to over one million acres, including part of Palo Duro Canyon, and had a hundred thousand head of cattle.

As one historian wrote, Goodnight lived "intensely and amply," even into his nineties. He conducted agricultural experiments, founded a secondary school for the children of ranchers, and even tried his hand at film production.

Goodnight died in Arizona in 1929, but is buried in the Texas town that bears his name.

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

1. Who was Charles Goodnight's cattle driving partner?

**Oliver Loving**

2. What were two innovations Goodnight used on the JA Ranch?

**Goodnight bred new strains of cattle and was one of the first Texas ranchers to use barbed wire.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** How long did the era of cattle drives last in Texas? Is this surprising? Explain.

**20-25 years. Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 John Graves. Then, answer questions about it.

### John Graves 1920–2013

Writer John Graves was born in Fort Worth in 1920 and grew up hunting and fishing on the Trinity River.

During World War II, he joined the Marines and served in the Pacific, until he was nearly killed by a Japanese grenade on the island of Saipan. Graves recovered from his wounds but lost sight in his left eye.

In 1957, Graves was still relatively unknown as a writer when he took a three-week canoe trip down the Brazos River, whose waters were threatened by a plan to construct flood-control dams along its length.

Graves chronicled his journey in the book *Goodbye to a River*, which gracefully commingles history, nature, folklore, and philosophic reflection. Since its appearance in 1960, the book has never been out of print and is now considered a Texas classic.

Graves used his earnings to buy land near Glen Rose, which he developed into a working ranch dubbed "Hard Scrabble." Between fence-mending and cow-chasing, Graves wrote about the land and people of Texas. "In a way," he once said, "I was trying to explain Texas to myself."

When Graves died in 2013, he was among the most beloved of Texas writers. His small but rich body of work is notable for its intelligence, integrity, and elegance as well as for its insight into the human use—and misuse—of nature.

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

1. What inspired John Graves's book *Goodbye to a River*?  
**He took a three-week canoe trip down the Brazos River, which was threatened by the creation of flood-control dams.**
2. What did Graves purchase with the money he earned as a writer?  
**He bought land outside Glen Rose, Texas, which he made into a working ranch called Hard Scrabble.**

**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.** Graves said he was "trying to explain Texas to myself." Do you think that writing about something is a good way to understand it better? Why or why not?  
**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 John Howard Griffin. Then, answer questions about it.

### John Howard Griffin 1920–1980

In 1961, author John Howard Griffin published an account of a six-week journey through the American South. He called the book an “obscure work,” likely to interest only sociologists. But the book—*Black Like Me*—became a modern classic.

Born in 1920, Griffin grew up in Fort Worth. At fifteen, he moved to France, where he attended school and studied music and photography. He served in the French Resistance before returning home in 1941 and enlisting in the Army Air Corps.

In the fifties, Griffin became increasingly troubled by racial discrimination and sought to better understand the plight of Black people in America. He later wrote, “The only way I could see to bridge the gap between us was to become a Negro.”

Griffin consulted with a dermatologist to darken his skin and soon began traveling southern states passing as Black. In *Black Like Me*, he chronicles the indignities he suffered, offering readers a troubling view of racial dynamics in the Jim Crow South. The *New York Times* hailed the book as “an essential document of contemporary American life.” But it also triggered immense hostility. At one point Griffin and his family moved to Mexico, fearing for their safety.

Griffin devoted the rest of his life to promoting social justice—teaching, delivering lectures, and working with civil rights leaders. He died in 1980.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on John Howard Griffin. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What book did John Howard Griffin write, and what was it about?

**Griffin wrote *Black Like Me*, which was about the discrimination he suffered on a trip through the American South where he disguised himself as a Black person.**

2. What did Griffin do to continue to promote social justice after publishing his book?

**He taught, delivered lectures, and worked with civil rights leaders.**

**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.** Griffin's book received both positive and negative responses. Why do you think the response was so mixed?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Laura Vernon Hamner. Then, answer questions about it.

### Laura Vernon Hamner 1871–1968

Known as “Miss Amarillo,” Laura V. Hamner devoted much of her life to recording and sharing the history of the Texas Panhandle.

Hamner was born in 1871. She served as postmistress in the Panhandle town of Claude and then, for more than a decade, as superintendent of the Potter County schools.

Hamner turned to writing in her late fifties. She became known for “prowling” the Panhandle, interviewing ranchers, cowboys, and pioneers—and once boldly facing gunfire to meet with a former outlaw. She was moved by the natural beauty of the region, where, as she often said, “the skies are always blue.”

Hamner wrote features for the *Amarillo Globe-News* for over thirty years, including a column for teenagers. She also had a weekly radio program on early Panhandle history.

Hamner’s books remain invaluable chronicles of Texas ranching history. Her biography of legendary rancher Charles Goodnight—told in the form of a novel titled *The No-Gun Man of Texas*—was corrected and approved by Goodnight himself.

Hamner encouraged other writers through the organization she co-founded in 1919, the Panhandle Pen Women. She often hosted writers and publishers at her residence in Amarillo’s Herring Hotel.

Hamner died in 1968. “I love and trust these Westerners with all my heart,” she once wrote. “The Panhandle is the grandest spot on earth.”

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Laura Vernon Hamner. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What types of people did Laura V. Hamner interview for her writing projects?

**Ranchers, cowboys, and pioneers**

2. In addition to writing books, how else did Hamner work to expand her influence and reach diverse audiences?

**Hamner wrote features for the *Amarillo Globe-News* for over thirty years, including a column for teenagers. She also had a weekly radio program on early Panhandle 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.** Hamner’s biography of Charles Goodnight was written as a novel rather than nonfiction. What do you think this suggests about the accuracy of the biography?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge. Then, answer questions about it.

### Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge 1824–1913

Born in New England in 1824, Sarah Ann Hardinge was an unlikely chronicler of Texas history. A woman with no formal art education, she nonetheless produced an important visual record of the state in the 1850s.

Hardinge and her husband arrived in Texas in 1852, hoping to sell land she had inherited from her brother. As they traveled, staying in hotels or with people they met, Hardinge created meticulous watercolors of her surroundings.

Her works feature faithfully reproduced buildings, such as San Antonio's San Fernando Cathedral and Mission Concepción, while her landscapes are more impressionistic. Trees, rivers, and terrain are rendered with a sense of perspective that suggests the vast scale of Texas—the scope of its land and the openness of its atmosphere. Hardinge also documents the Texas frontier economy. Livestock dot the fields while enslaved laborers are shown working the land.

Hardinge and her family returned to Boston in 1856, having failed to obtain any wealth from her brother's land holdings. When she divorced her husband in 1865, Hardinge turned to her artistic accomplishments with new urgency. She patented a process for tinting and enhancing photographs and supported her family on its sales.

Hardinge died in New Jersey in 1913. Her paintings are now preserved at Fort Worth's Amon Carter Museum of American Art.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge travel to Texas with her husband?

**They intended to sell land she had inherited from her brother.**

2. What types of things did Hardinge capture in her art work?

**She reproduced buildings and landscapes and represented the frontier economy and enslaved labor.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Compare the way that a painter and a writer are able to capture the same scene. What is different and what is the same?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence. Most likely answers will compare words and images and address how the particular medium is used. They may also discuss how details are revealed or how style impacts the final results.**



## 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 Oveta Culp Hobby. Then, answer questions about it.

### Oveta Culp Hobby 1905–1995

Oveta Culp Hobby's fascination with government began when she was a young girl, and it continued through her long and interesting life. She was born in Killeen in 1905, the daughter of state legislator Ike Culp.

Oveta Culp received her law degree in 1925 from The University of Texas at Austin. While studying, she served as the state's legislative parliamentarian. In 1931, she married former Texas Governor William P. Hobby. The Hobbys published the *Houston Post*, and had two children. But when the United States entered World War II, Oveta Hobby was asked to organize a women's support section for the Army. She agreed, and through her efforts, more than 150,000 women served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. In January 1945, Hobby was awarded the Army's Distinguished Service Medal for her work.

After the war, Hobby returned to Houston. But in 1953, President Eisenhower appointed her to lead the newly created Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, where she once again organized an entirely new agency of the federal government.

Hobby died in 1995, leaving an inspiring record of civic service. Today, her words about women and the war effort are inscribed on the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington. The inscription reads, "Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women ... This was a people's war, and everyone was in it."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Oveta Culp Hobby. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What award did Oveta Culp Hobby receive for organizing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps during World War II?

**Army's Distinguished Service Medal**

2. Hobby became the second woman to serve as a cabinet secretary when she was appointed to lead what newly created cabinet department?

**Department of Health, Education, and Welfare**

**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.** When Hobby said, "Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women..." what do you think she meant?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Ima Hogg. Then, answer questions about it.

**Ima Hogg  
1882–1975**

Known as the “First Lady of Texas,” Ima Hogg was born in Mineola in 1882, the only daughter of Texas governor “Big Jim” Hogg. The Hogs were a public-spirited family. So when oil was discovered on family property, Ima and her brothers used their new wealth for the public good. They believed that since the oil came from Texas land, it belonged to Texas citizens.

Ima Hogg became an arts patron and a philanthropist. She helped establish the Houston Symphony Orchestra in 1913. She also founded several mental health programs focused on education. But perhaps her most tangible legacy is found in the historic properties she bequeathed to the state. Those include the Varner-Hogg Plantation near West Columbia and the Winedale museum near Round Top.

Miss Ima’s legacy also includes her masterpiece, Bayou Bend. It was her stately home on Buffalo Bayou in Houston. Each room was appointed with authentic early American furniture and significant art. In 1957, she gave the home, its collection along with the surrounding grounds and gardens to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She continued to add to the collection until her death in 1975.

Hogg delighted in poking around her properties during renovations, inspecting every detail. She was a perfectionist with inimitable grace. One biographer noted Miss Ima could “sugarcoat her single-mindedness with layers of charm.” Those qualities are evident at Bayou Bend and the other elegant house museums the First Lady of Texas left to her fellow citizens.

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

1. The discovery of oil created new wealth for Ima Hogg’s family. How did Hogg use her fortune to give back to her community?

**Ima Hogg became an arts patron and a philanthropist.**

2. According to the episode, what is Ima Hogg’s most tangible legacy?

**Bayou Bend**

**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.** Ima Hogg devoted much of her life and wealth to supporting the arts. Do you agree that it is important to make art available to the public? Why or why not?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 James Stephen Hogg. Then, answer questions about it.

### James Stephen Hogg 1851–1906

The governorship of James Stephen Hogg, from 1891 to 1895, has been a benchmark for Texas governors ever since. Hogg was born in 1851 and grew up near Rusk. As a young man, he worked as a typesetter in a newspaper office and later published newspapers in East Texas while studying for a law degree.

Hogg's political career began when he was elected Wood County attorney. He also served as a district attorney and as Texas attorney general.

In 1890, Hogg became the state's first native-born governor. Six-foot-two and nearly three hundred pounds, "Big Jim," as he was known, vigorously fought for the interests of the common citizen. At the forefront of the Progressive reform movement in Texas, Hogg opposed abuses by insurance companies, railroad monopolies, and land corporations.

He helped establish the powerful Texas Railroad Commission, the oldest regulatory agency in the state. He was a champion of public schools, state universities, and teacher education. During his second term, Hogg urged the Texas legislature to pass an anti-lynching law, which it finally did in 1897.

Hogg continued to work for progressive reform after leaving office. In a 1903 speech, three years before his death, he exhorted his audience, "Let us have Texas, the empire state, governed by the people; not Texas, the truck-patch, ruled by corporate lobbyists."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on James Stephen Hogg. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Name two jobs James Hogg had before he became governor.

**He worked as a typesetter in a newspaper office and later published newspapers in East Texas while studying for a law degree. He was elected Wood County attorney. He also served as a district attorney and as Texas attorney general.**

2. How did Governor Hogg fight for the interests of the "common citizen"?

**Hogg opposed abuses by insurance companies, railroad monopolies, and land corporations. He helped establish the powerful Texas Railroad Commission, the oldest regulatory agency in the state. He was a champion of public schools, state universities, and teacher education. During his second term, Hogg urged the Texas legislature to pass an anti-lynching law, which it finally did in 1897.**

**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 Hogg's most important accomplishment as governor? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**





## 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 Mary Austin Holley. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mary Austin Holley 1784–1846

Writer Mary Austin Holley introduced English-speaking readers of the 1830s and '40s to Texas, which she called a land of "surpassing beauty . . . a splendid country." A Connecticut native, Holley lived in Boston and Lexington, Kentucky, until the death of her husband in 1827.

She later wrote to her cousin Stephen F. Austin, inquiring about the colony he founded in far-off Texas. Stephen replied enthusiastically, even promising her a tract of land upon her arrival. She visited in 1831, and several times over the next twelve years, with plans to settle there.

In 1833, Holley published *Texas: Observations, Historical, Geographical and Descriptive*, the first book on Texas by an Anglo American. Three years later, she published a second book, simply titled *Texas*, which included a thrilling portrayal of the Texas War of Independence and a detailed guide to the new republic's land and people.

*Texas* was the first book to include many important documents of the Revolution, including the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Republic of Texas Constitution.

Holley's work persuaded many to pack up and move to Texas. Sadly, she died of yellow fever in 1846 and never settled in the place that had captured her heart. Today, her engaging books, her intricate pencil sketches of early Houston, and her journals and family letters provide invaluable accounts of life in early Texas.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mary Austin Holley. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What connection did Mary Austin Holley have to Texas that led her to visit?

**Stephen F. Austin, her cousin**

2. What documents were included in Holley's second book *Texas*?

**Texas was the first book to include many important documents of the Revolution, including the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Republic of Texas Constitution.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Holley's second book was published in 1836. What events had just concluded? What about them might have made people likely to move to Texas?

**The Texas Revolution had concluded and the Republic of Texas won its independence. Settlers now had different requirements to fulfill to move to Texas, and would be living under a different government.**



## 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 Dorothy Rose Hood. Then, answer questions about it.

### Dorothy Rose Hood 1918–2000

The abstract paintings of Dorothy Hood are now recognized as masterpieces of twentieth-century American art. Their energy, scale, and ambition also reflect the spirit of Texas—Hood's birthplace and home during the most productive period of her career.

Born in Bryan in 1918, Hood was raised in Houston, then moved east after high school to study art. While visiting Mexico in 1941, she made friends in the vibrant arts community and lived there on and off for twenty years. There, she developed her own distinctive style—geometrically abstract works that evoked the natural world, melding organic and artificial forms.

It was after Hood returned to Houston in the early sixties that she produced some of her most spectacular work. These towering ten-by-eight-foot paintings feature broad fields of modulated color with light surfacing from beneath. A sense of vast space and emptiness emanates from the canvases. In some, lightning bolts seem to crack through to an unknown beyond. Hood described these works as "landscapes of my psyche."

Hood died in 2000. While well regarded during her lifetime, she is now recognized as one of the most important American artists of her generation. About her home state, she once said, "The space of Texas and the plains and the sky and everything frees me. You have every element for an artist there."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Dorothy Rose Hood. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How does the episode describe Dorothy Rose Hood's artistic style?

**Hood created geometrically abstract pieces that referenced things in nature.**

2. How does Hood describe the art works that she created during the time she lived in Houston?

**She describes them as "landscapes of my psyche."**

**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.** If you were going to create an abstract version of the landscape where you live, what would it look like? Why would it look that way?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Lillian Horace. Then, answer questions about it.

### Lillian Horace 1880–1965

Fort Worth's Lillian Horace was a prominent educator in her day. It is only now that we recognize her as Texas's first Black woman novelist.

Born in 1880 in East Texas, Horace stated her ambitions at a young age: "to read—to unite—to teach—to possess no fear of death." Her pursuit of higher education was crucial to her journey, as she moved from Bishop College and Prairie View A&M in Texas to the University of Chicago and Columbia in New York.

But it was Fort Worth's I. M. Terrell High, her alma mater and the city's first Black school, that became her longest association. She taught there for many years, founding its library, drama department, and school newspaper.

Throughout her life, Horace also wrote. Her first novel, 1916's *Five Generations Hence*, was a utopian account of Black Americans escaping the Jim Crow South through migration to Africa. The book was ahead of its time, predicting both Marcus Garvey's popular emigration movement and the Afrofuturism of Black science fiction.

By the 1950s, Horace had completed two additional books, a biography of the Baptist leader Lacey Kirk Williams, praised at the time by Martin Luther King Jr., and the novel *Angie Brown*. Her works were not widely distributed in her lifetime, and it was decades before scholars uncovered the rich creative life of this revered public figure.

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

1. Lillian Horace was known as an educator, but what did she also do throughout her life?  
**She was also an author.**

2. Name three books that Horace wrote.  
***Five Generations Hence*, *Angie Brown*, and a biography of Lacey Kirk Williams**

**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.** Why do you think one of Horace's life ambitions was "to possess no fear of death"? What might that have allowed her to do?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Sam Houston. Then, answer questions about it.

### Sam Houston 1793–1863

In 1861, as the Civil War loomed, Texas Governor Sam Houston watched his constituents vote to secede from the Union. Houston could not believe that two decades of his work was about to unravel. His loyalty to the Union was genuine, and he was not willing to switch his allegiance to the Confederacy. Houston was forced out of office, but not before saying, “I love Texas too well to bring civil strife and bloodshed upon her.”

Houston had never refused a fight in his life. But he understood how disastrous the Civil War would ultimately be.

Sam Houston had arrived in Texas, almost thirty years prior, in 1832. The former congressman and governor of Tennessee’s new cause was Texas independence. He led the army that defeated Mexican General Santa Anna at San Jacinto—an achievement that secured his place in Texas history.

Sam Houston’s next challenge was convincing Texans to join the United States. It took almost a decade, but annexation occurred in 1845.

Just fifteen years later, the Civil War was about to tear his country apart. At sixty-seven, Sam Houston’s fighting days were behind him, and he retired to a quiet life in Huntsville. Two years later in 1863, as the Civil War was raging, Sam Houston died.

His final home still stands on the grounds of Sam Houston State University and is visited annually by thousands who pay tribute to this iconic Texan.

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

1. Why did Sam Houston leave office in 1861?

**His loyalty to the Union was genuine, and he was not willing to switch his allegiance to the Confederacy.**

2. What was Sam Houston’s role in the cause of Texas independence?

**He led the army that defeated Mexican General Santa Anna at San Jacinto—an achievement that secured his place in Texas 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. **Taking a Position.** Have you ever had to make a choice between two beliefs that were important to you? What helped you to make the decision?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 Sarah T. Hughes. Then, answer questions about it.

### Sarah T. Hughes 1896–1985

When Sarah T. Hughes arrived in Dallas as a young lawyer, in 1922, no firm would hire a woman. Nevertheless, as Hughes put it, she had “an ambition to do something for the state.”

Although she is best known for administering the oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson aboard Air Force One after John F. Kennedy’s assassination, Hughes considered her 1930 election to the Texas Legislature to be her greatest accomplishment.

After serving three terms, Governor James Allred appointed her to the bench of Dallas’s Fourteenth District Court, in 1935, making her the state’s first female district judge. Although opponents proclaimed that she should be “home washing dishes,” she was elected to the same post the following year.

Dismayed that women could not serve as jurors in the very courtroom over which she presided, Hughes played a key role in the passage of a 1954 amendment to the Texas constitution allowing women to serve on juries.

Hughes served six terms on the state bench and earned wide respect as a tough and exacting jurist. President John F. Kennedy appointed her as the first female federal district judge in Texas, in 1961.

Over the course of a fifty-five-year career, Hughes championed equal rights and encouraged women to get involved in politics, illustrating her lifelong belief that “women can indeed be a force in history.”

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Sarah T. Hughes. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. According to the episode, what is Sarah T. Hughes best known for?

**Administering the oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson aboard Air Force One after John F. Kennedy’s assassination**

2. Why did Hughes support amending the state constitution in 1954?

**Dismayed that women could not serve as jurors in the very courtroom over which she presided, Hughes played a key role in the passage of a 1954 amendment to the Texas constitution allowing women to serve on juries.**

**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.** Why did some people oppose Hughes working as a judge?

**She was a woman.**



## 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 Jovita Idár. Then, answer questions about it.

**Jovita Idár**  
**1885–1946**

Journalist and activist Jovita Idár was born in Laredo in 1885. As a young woman, she abandoned a teaching career to write for her father’s weekly newspaper, *La Crónica*. In her articles, Idár denounced the dismal social, educational, and economic conditions of Texas Mexicans.

In 1911, when the First Mexican Congress met to address civil rights in Texas, Idár and other women were active participants. Idár became the first president of the League of Mexican Women, an offshoot of the Congress. She mobilized League efforts to provide free education to poor children.

These efforts set the tone for the rest of Idár’s life and work. As an educated Tejana, she felt duty-bound to promote civil rights—including women’s rights—and education. “Educate a woman,” Idár often said, “and you educate a family.”

During the Mexican Revolution, Idár crossed the border to serve as a nurse in the White Cross, a group similar to the American Red Cross. When she returned to Laredo, she continued to write newspaper articles condemning racial prejudice and acts of violence against Mexicans and Tejanos.

In 1917, Idár and her husband moved north to San Antonio. She became active in politics, established a free kindergarten, and continued to write and promote social justice. Idár remained in San Antonio until her death in 1946.

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

1. What subjects did Jovita Idár cover as a journalist for *La Crónica*?

**Idár denounced the dismal social, educational, and economic conditions of Texas Mexicans.**

2. Name three ways Idár continued her life’s work of promoting Mexican and Tejano rights after moving to San Antonio.

**She became active in politics, established a free kindergarten, and continued to write and promote social justice.**

**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.** What do you think Idar meant when she said “Educate a woman and you educate a family”?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Luis Alfonso Jiménez Jr. Then, answer questions about it.

### Luis Alfonso Jiménez Jr. 1940–2006

Luis Jiménez's monumental sculptures changed the course of American art in the second half of the twentieth century. His brightly hued figures of mustangs, Aztec warriors, and working-class immigrants challenged not only artistic fashion but also popular notions of the Southwest and its history.

Jiménez was born in El Paso in 1940. Childhood visits to Mexico introduced him to the grand, dramatic murals of Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros. These experiences—along with learning to weld and spray paint in his father's sign shop—shaped him as an artist.

When Jiménez emerged in the late 1960s, Pop, Minimalism and Color Field Abstraction were the prevailing styles. By contrast, Jiménez's works were narrative, socially engaged, and, as one scholar put it, "meaningful at first glance."

One of his most celebrated sculptures is "Vaquero," his take on the traditional equestrian statue. Instead of bronze or stone, Jiménez fashioned his mounted rider out of brushed fiberglass painted in glossy shades of gold, maroon, and neon blue. And his cowboy is Latino, connecting this traditional symbol of the Southwest to its historic origins.

The artist died in a tragic studio accident in 2006. His works are now displayed prominently in museums and public spaces throughout the country. His "Vaquero" greets visitors to the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC, as well as visitors to Houston's Moody Park.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Luis Alfonso Jiménez Jr. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What two childhood experiences shaped Luis Alfonso Jiménez Jr. as an artist?

**Seeing dramatic murals in Mexico and learning to weld and spray paint in his father's sign shop**

2. What non-traditional material did Jiménez use on his sculpture Vaquero?

**Brushed fiberglass covered with glossy paint**

**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.** Jiménez's sculptures were created on a "monumental" scale. Why do you think he chose to make such large pieces of art?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Arthur John "Jack" Johnson. Then, answer questions about it.

### Arthur John "Jack" Johnson 1878–1946

Jack Johnson was born in Galveston in 1878. He went on to become the greatest boxer in the world and one of America's most famous celebrities. Johnson won the World Colored Heavyweight Championship in 1903 but could not claim the overall title because white fighters refused to face him in the ring.

That changed in 1908 when Johnson beat Tommy Burns to become the first African American World Heavyweight Champion. He defended his title against all comers, including retired champ James Jeffries. Jeffries announced his sole purpose for coming out of retirement was "proving a white man is better than a Negro." Johnson knocked Jeffries down twice before Jeffries gave up in the fifteenth round.

The *New York Times* hoped Johnson's win would "stimulate respect for equality and fairness." To the contrary, unrest and violence followed. Johnson's taste for fast cars and high living fueled the outrage.

In 1913, his relationships with white women led to a trumped-up charge of "transporting women across state lines for immoral purposes." Johnson's only real crime was his success, yet he spent a year in Leavenworth prison.

Despite declining skills, Johnson continued boxing into his fifties. In 1946, at the age of sixty-eight, Johnson died in a car wreck.

In 2002, the city of Galveston renamed 41st Street Jack Johnson Boulevard in honor of its most famous native son.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Arthur John "Jack" Johnson. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What prevented Arthur John "Jack" Johnson from claiming the overall boxing title in 1903?  
**White fighters refused to face him in the ring.**
2. The *New York Times* wrote that they hoped Johnson's win would promote equality. What actually happened?  
**To the contrary, unrest and violence followed.**

**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 the episode means by "Johnson's only real crime was his success."  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**





## 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 Jesse Holman Jones. Then, answer questions about it.

### Jesse Holman Jones 1874–1956

During the Great Depression and World War II, one of the most powerful men in the United States was a tall, silver-haired Texan named Jesse Holman Jones.

Born in 1874, Jones made his fortune in real estate and banking. He helped get the Houston Ship Channel built and brought the 1928 Democratic National Convention to the city. He became sole owner of the Houston Chronicle in 1926.

In 1933, President Roosevelt appointed Jones chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Under Jones's leadership, the agency loaned billions of dollars to build infrastructure and save banks, farms, homes, and businesses. It was all repaid with a profit. Jones and Roosevelt then used the RFC to build enormous factories that produced the planes, tanks, and ships essential to an Allied victory in World War II. Jones also served as Roosevelt's secretary of commerce. He was granted discretionary powers so broad that many called him "the fourth branch of government."

After World War II, Jones returned to Houston and focused on philanthropy. In 1937, he and his wife, Mary Gibbs Jones, established the Houston Endowment, which has since donated hundreds of millions of dollars to education, health care, human services, and the arts. News of Jones's death in 1956 provoked outpourings of praise for his tireless service to his city and the nation.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Jesse Holman Jones. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What were Jesse Holman Jones's major accomplishments while working under President Roosevelt?

**He chaired the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which built infrastructure and saved banks, homes, and business during the Great Depression. The RFC then built factories whose products fueled the U.S. war effort. He was also Roosevelt's secretary of commerce.**

2. What did Jones do after World War II?

**He returned to Houston and founded the Houston Endowment.**

**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 "discretionary" mean? How do you know?

**"Discretionary" means left to individual choice or judgment. The episode notes that he was "the fourth branch of government," getting as much decision making power as the executive, legislative, or judicial branches, and working separately from them.**



## 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 Margo Jones. Then, answer questions about it.

### Margo Jones 1911–1955

Texan Margo Jones revolutionized American theater. At a time when few professional drama companies existed outside New York, Jones fought for regional productions and new voices. Her enthusiasm earned her the nickname the “Texas Tornado” and led Tennessee Williams to describe her as a combination of Joan of Arc, Gene Autry, and nitroglycerine.

Born in Livingston in 1911, Jones trained in Denton and Dallas but soon learned that professional theater opportunities were limited to New York and Los Angeles.

Jones spent time in those cities but returned to Texas determined to create the best theater in America. She said, “I saw no reason why I couldn’t have it in Houston.” She soon proved to be one of the nation’s most promising young directors. She championed young playwrights such as Tennessee Williams, Jerome Lawrence, and Robert Edwin Lee and directed the premieres of *The Glass Menagerie* and *Inherit the Wind*.

In 1947, in Dallas, Jones founded America’s first modern professional resident theater, which in turn launched the regional theater movement throughout the nation. Hers was also America’s first professional theater-in-the-round, using minimal sets on a stage surrounded by the audience.

Jones died in 1955, just as her dream of a decentralized American theater came to fruition. Today, strong regional theater companies continue to thrive throughout America.

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

1. How did playwright Tennessee Williams describe Margo Jones?

**Tennessee Williams described her as a combination of Joan of Arc, Gene Autry, and nitroglycerine.**

2. What two features of the theater Jones founded in Dallas were considered “firsts” in American theater?

**Jones founded America’s first modern professional resident theater, which in turn launched the regional theater movement throughout the nation. Hers was also America’s first professional theater-in-the-round, using minimal sets on a stage surrounded by the audience.**

**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.** Why do you think the success of Jones’s Dallas theater launched the regional theater movement throughout the nation?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Scott Joplin. Then, answer questions about it.

### Scott Joplin 1868–1917

In the early 1880s, a young African American boy in Texarkana named Scott Joplin was trained in the fundamentals of classical music and opera by his German-born teacher. Born near Linden, Texas, Joplin was the son of a formerly enslaved railroad worker—and a budding musical talent. By his early twenties, he left home to become an itinerant musician.

While living in St. Louis, Joplin encountered a kind of music that juxtaposed a steady, bouncing bass with a syncopated treble: “ragged time,” or “ragtime.” The music was played in saloons and brothels, and in Joplin’s hands, it became high art.

In the late 1890s, Joplin settled in Sedalia, Missouri, where he studied music, performed, and began writing songs such as the “Maple Leaf Rag” and “The Entertainer.” Ragtime was described as the “one true American music” of the day, and Joplin was its king.

Joplin spent his final years in New York City, seeking to produce his opera, *Treemonisha*. Discouraged and in declining health, he died in 1917.

In the 1970s, the world rediscovered Joplin. New recordings were issued. And his music featured prominently in the Hollywood film *The Sting*, which won an Academy Award for its score.

In 1976, Joplin received a posthumous Pulitzer Prize for his unique and lasting contributions to American popular song.

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

1. What are the characteristics of the “ragtime” genre of music for which Scott Joplin became famous?

**Juxtaposition of a steady, bouncing bass with a syncopated treble**

2. How did the world “rediscover” Joplin’s music in the 1970s?

**New recordings were issued, and his music featured prominently in the Hollywood film *The Sting*, which won an Academy Award for its score.**

**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.** Based on the episode, what does the word “itinerant” mean?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: Traveling**



## 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 Barbara Jordan. Then, answer questions about it.

### Barbara Jordan 1936–1996

In July 1974, as the Watergate hearings took place, one voice stood out expressing faith in American ideals. That voice—deep, measured, and unmistakable—belonged to Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. "My faith in the Constitution is whole," Jordan declared, "it is complete, it is total. And I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution." Jordan's words electrified Congress and a national televised audience, and helped bring about President Nixon's resignation.

Jordan was born in Houston's Fifth Ward in 1936, and attended segregated schools until she enrolled at Boston University Law School.

In 1966, Barbara Jordan began her historic political career when she became the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate. Six years later, she won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first African American woman from a southern state to serve in the body.

Jordan mastered the art of political compromise, but never wavered in her commitment to the Constitution.

In 1979, Jordan retired from elective office to begin a teaching career, after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. When she died, in 1996, her burial in the Texas State Cemetery marked yet another first: she was the first Black woman interred there.

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

1. What was historic about Barbara Jordan's election to the Texas Senate in 1966?  
**She became the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate.**
2. How did Jordan claim the national spotlight in 1974?  
**She made a memorable speech during the Watergate hearings. Jordan's words electrified Congress and a national televised audience, helping to bring about President Nixon's resignation.**

**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.** Using the context of the rest of her quote, what does the word "diminution" mean?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: To reduce, make light of**



## 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 Donald Clarence Judd. Then, answer questions about it.

### Donald Clarence Judd 1928–1994

Born in 1928, the artist Donald Judd was nurtured in the cultural hotbed of New York City. But the austere, high desert of West Texas became his artistic home.

In the sixties, Judd began creating pared-down, geometric sculptures out of metal and Plexiglas. He didn't intend these works to represent anything; instead, they were things in themselves, meant to be experienced rather than analyzed.

On a road trip in the early seventies, Judd passed through the West Texas town of Marfa and was captivated by the area's broad spaces and shifting sunlight. He soon settled there and bought local properties and ranchland, including a decommissioned Army base. Judd developed the site as the Chinati Foundation, a showcase for his own artworks and those of others.

Chinati's centerpiece is Judd's series of one hundred aluminum boxes, housed in two vast former artillery sheds. The large boxes are arranged in neat rows, with their interiors exposed. Their effect on the visitor is cumulative. As one critic writes, the "shimmering boxes form a giant multifaceted mirror that reflects the vast panorama surrounding the site." The work is abstract, yet it quietly evokes "the transcendental majesty of the American West."

Judd passed away in 1994. But his works continue to attract thousands of visitors each year to Marfa and this unlikely cultural outpost.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Donald Clarence Judd. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. For what kind of art did Donald Clarence Judd become famous?

**Abstract sculptures**

2. Describe Judd's work that is the centerpiece of the Chinati Foundation.

**One hundred aluminum boxes, housed in two vast former artillery sheds. The large boxes are arranged in neat rows, with their interiors exposed. Their effect on the visitor is cumulative. As one critic writes, the "shimmering boxes form a giant multifaceted mirror that reflects the vast panorama surrounding the site." The work is abstract, yet it quietly evokes "the transcendental majesty of the American West."**

**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.** Judd helped establish the West Texas town of Marfa as a cultural outpost. If you were to make a town your home base, for what would you like to be known? Why?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 Enid Justin. Then, answer questions about it.

### Enid Justin 1894–1990

When ninety-six-year-old Enid Justin died in 1990, she had been making boots in tiny Nocona, Texas, for over eighty years. Miss Enid, as she was known to her neighbors, was the daughter of bootmaker H. J. Justin, who sold boots to cowboys on the Chisholm Trail in the 1870s. He established Justin & Sons boot company in Nocona in 1889, five years before Enid was born.

When Enid was suspended from high school for dancing on a Sunday, she decided she'd rather learn to make boots than graduate. She joined the family business, learning leatherworking skills at her father's side. When Enid's father died, her brothers moved Justin Boots to Fort Worth—but she dug in her heels. "I knew Daddy Joe would never have left Nocona," she said and borrowed \$5,000 to start the Nocona Boot Company.

As a female entrepreneur in small-town Texas in the 1920s, Miss Enid was a trailblazer. She served as her company's founder, president, and chief saleswoman. Over the next fifty-six years, she built Nocona Boots into one of the top five boot companies in America. In 1981, she merged her brand with her brothers' but remained in Nocona for the rest of her life.

Nocona boots are still sold nationwide today, upholding a tradition of independent craftsmanship—the legacy of Miss Enid and her beloved Texas hometown.

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

1. To whom did Enid Justin's father sell boots?

**H.J. Justin sold boots to cowboys on the Chisholm Trail in the 1870s.**

2. What did Justin name her boot company after splitting from her brothers?

**Nocona Boot Company**

**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. **Creating Connections.** In addition to boots, cowboys need other special tools to help them do their job. What else does a successful cowboy need?

**Students can name and describe any of the following: saddle, stirrups, spurs, hat, chaps, lasso, serape.**



## 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 Elmer Kelton. Then, answer questions about it.

### Elmer Kelton 1926–2009

Author of more than forty Westerns, the writer Elmer Kelton depicted the South Texas Plains with both romance and realism. These were qualities that Kelton knew well, having spent his entire life in the region.

Born in 1926, Kelton grew up on the McElroy ranch near Midland, where his father was the general manager. Young Elmer, with his poor eyesight and love of books, realized he would never become the cowboy his father wanted him to be. Instead, he enrolled at The University of Texas in Austin, majoring in journalism.

After serving in the Army during World War II, Kelton returned to Texas to work as an editor for farm and ranch journals. But he also wrote fiction, and gradually gained fame as an authentic voice of Western literature.

His 1973 novel *The Time It Never Rained*, set in the drought-stricken Texas of the 1950s, ushered in a new kind of Western—one concerned with the modern day rather than a bygone era of pioneers and cattle drives.

Kelton once explained, “I can’t write about heroes seven feet tall and invincible. I write about people five feet eight and nervous.”

In 1995, Kelton was voted the “greatest western writer of all time” by the Western Writers of America. *The Time It Never Rained* is now remembered as his finest work, and a lasting contribution to Texas literary history.

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

1. Elmer Kelton is most commonly known for which genre of literature?

**Westerns**

2. The episode describes Kelton’s novel *The Time It Never Rained* as being a “new kind of Western.” What made it different from previous westerns?

**One concerned with the modern day rather than a bygone era of pioneers and cattle drives**

**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. **Creating Connections.** In what ways might future climate events, like a drought or hurricane, affect Texas’s population, settlement patterns, or economy? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 Henrietta Chamberlain King. Then, answer questions about it.

### Henrietta Chamberlain King 1832–1925

Henrietta Chamberlain King helped build one of the nation's largest ranches and established institutions now central to life in South Texas. Born in Missouri in 1832, King moved to Brownsville with her family as a young woman. There she met her future husband, Richard, an unschooled riverboat pilot with dreams of establishing a cattle ranch on the Santa Gertrudis Creek.

When the newlyweds settled on land southwest of Corpus Christi, King proved equal to the challenges of running a ranch. She took charge of the housing, health care, and education of the ranch hands and their families, all while raising her own five children.

Following her husband's death in 1885, Henrietta assumed ownership of the King Ranch, now a half-million-acre spread that was half a million dollars in debt. With her son-in-law Robert Kleberg, she steered the estate out of the red, expanded its holdings, and oversaw the development of pioneering techniques in cattle breeding, irrigation, and land management.

Over the next four decades, King donated land for the towns of Kingsville and Raymondville. She also gave property for what became Texas A&M University-Kingsville and the Spohn Hospital in Corpus Christi.

When King died in 1925, her ranch comprised more than a million acres. At her funeral, two hundred King Ranch vaqueros circled her grave on horseback, tipping their hats in a gesture of respect and farewell.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Henrietta Chamberlain King. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did Henrietta and Richard King establish their ranch?

**On land southwest of Corpus Christi**

2. How large was the King Ranch when Henrietta died?

**More than one million acres**

**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.** Of the many things that King did for her ranch and community, which do you think made the most impact on Texas?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**





## 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 Larry L. King. Then, answer questions about it.

### Larry L. King 1929–2012

Journalist, playwright, and raconteur Larry L. King spent most of his life in Washington, DC, but the vivid language and distinctive characters of his home state never ceased to inspire him.

King was born in the small west Texas town of Putnam. After a brief stint in college, he covered sports and politics for the Midland and Odessa papers. Then he moved to Washington, where he spent several years working for Texas politicians.

But King was foremost a writer. During his career, he published fourteen books and seven plays, as well as articles for magazines such as *Texas Monthly* and *Harper's*.

His work is marked by a barbed wit. He delighted in exposing the hypocrisy and self-righteousness of people whose worldview, as he put it, extended “little further than the end of their own noses,” like those who closed down the Chicken Ranch, a brothel near La Grange that had operated in open secret for decades.

That brothel became the subject of King’s best-known work, the 1978 musical *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Although King expected the musical to close “quicker than a switchblade,” it ran on Broadway for four years.

King died in 2012. Texas, he once said, “provided me with the stuff of a career,” and his work endures as a vibrant chronicle of the state’s politics, culture, and personalities.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Larry L. King. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Though Larry L. King spent much of his life outside of Texas, what continued to inspire him throughout his career?

**The vivid language and distinctive characters of his home state never ceased to inspire him.**

2. What forms of writing did King publish?

**He published books and plays, as well as articles for magazines such as *Texas Monthly* and *Harper's*.**

**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.** King is described as having “delighted in exposing the hypocrisy and self-righteousness of people whose worldview...extended ‘little further than the end of their own noses.’” What does that mean? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar 1798–1859

Poet, politician, and historian, Mirabeau B. Lamar is claimed by Texas, although he was a Georgia native and lived there for three decades.

Lamar served in the Georgia state senate and made two unsuccessful bids for Congress. In 1835, he followed his friend James Fannin to the Mexican province of Texas, where he fought in the war for independence from Mexico.

In 1838, Lamar became the second President of the Republic of Texas, inheriting a nation beset by problems that included a bankrupt treasury. Undaunted, Lamar promoted his vision of Texas as a prosperous, sprawling empire. Less admirably, his vision included the practice of slavery and excluded the presence of Native Americans. Lamar forced the Cherokees out of Texas and waged a costly war against the Comanche.

Many of Lamar's grandest projects failed and he vastly overspent public funds, but he is celebrated for having persuaded Congress to set aside public lands to fund Texas schools and universities—earning him the title "Father of Texas Education." Lamar famously wrote, "The cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy," a pronouncement that inspired the motto of The University of Texas.

In later years, Lamar served in the Second Texas Legislature and was an ambassador to Costa Rica and Nicaragua. He died in 1859 and is buried near his home in Richmond, Texas.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What vision of Texas did Mirabeau Lamar promote as the second president of the Republic of Texas?

**A prosperous, sprawling empire**

2. What are three critiques of Lamar's policies as Texas's second president?

**His vision included the practice of slavery and excluded the presence of Native Americans; Lamar forced the Cherokees out of Texas; he waged a costly war against the Comanche.**

**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.** Lamar is famously quoted as saying, "the cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy." Do you agree with Lamar's stance that an educated population is important for a successful democracy? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle. Then, answer questions about it.

### **René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle 1643–1687**

Born in 1643, French explorer René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, abandoned training as a priest for the summons of economic opportunity in North America.

La Salle settled near Montreal in 1666 and engaged in the fur trade. He soon organized and led expeditions throughout the upper Midwest. Guessing that the Mississippi River emptied into the Gulf of Mexico, he envisioned a vast commercial empire for France extending from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. In 1682, La Salle descended the lower Mississippi by canoe, claiming all the lands in the river's watershed for France. He named the region Louisiana for his king.

La Salle returned to France, and two years later, sailed with four ships and several hundred passengers to establish a colony near the mouth of the Mississippi. The ill-fated expedition overshot its target, landing at Matagorda Bay. La Salle established the meager Fort St. Louis in present-day Victoria County. His colony was soon decimated by disease, lack of supplies, and hostile relations with Indigenous peoples. La Salle was killed by one of his own men in 1687.

In the end, La Salle failed to realize his vision. But his efforts shaped North American history—opening the Mississippi Basin for European interests, providing France with a claim to Texas, and spurring the Spanish to establish their own claim to the Gulf region.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What did René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle do on his first expeditions from Montreal?  
**He claimed all the lands in the Mississippi River watershed for France and named the region Louisiana.**
2. What was the result of La Salle's expedition in Texas?  
**The expedition landed in the wrong place, its settlement was destroyed, and La Salle was murdered.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** La Salle's expedition is the reason that France is one of the "six flags over Texas." What are the other five flags, and what periods of Texas history do they represent?  
**Spain: 17th century colonization and settlement, ending in 1821; Mexico: 1821-1836; Republic of Texas: 1836-1845; United States: 1845-1861 and 1865-present; Confederate States: 1861-1865**



## 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 Tom Lea. Then, answer questions about it.

### Tom Lea 1907–2001

A mural in the El Paso Federal Court House named *Pass of the North* typifies the work of Texas artist Tom Lea. Larger-than-life figures representing El Paso's many inhabitants—a Mexican vaquero, a conquistador, Apache Indians, and pioneers—all range across the courthouse wall. Behind them, stark desert light illuminates a mountain range, while storm clouds threaten in the distance. In Lea's paintings, viewers see the light, space, and stillness of his beloved Franklin Mountains, as well as the energy, motion, and even violence of life.

Born in 1907, Lea grew up a part of El Paso's colorful history. His father was the city's mayor, and when Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa placed a bounty on Mayor Lea's head, young Tom traveled to school with a police escort.

Lea studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and during World War II, he traveled with the 1st Marine Division as a reporter for *Life* magazine. His paintings of Pacific battles brought home the emotional toll of warfare.

Lea also illustrated books for friends, including fellow Texan J. Frank Dobie. After the war, Lea began writing books of his own. Two of his novels, *The Brave Bulls* and *The Wonderful Country*, became successful Hollywood films.

But Lea is most remembered for his paintings inspired by West Texas subjects—the diverse cultures, the austere desert mountains, and what he once described as “the wonderful, ever-changing light on the structure of the world.”

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

1. Name four types of people represented in Tom Lea's mural *Pass of the North*.

**A Mexican vaquero, a conquistador, Apache Indians, and pioneers**

2. What did Lea do during World War II?

**He traveled with the 1st Marine Division as a reporter for *Life* magazine.**

**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.** What do you think the title of Lea's famous mural in El Paso, *Pass of the North*, means?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: El Paso is the pass between two sets of mountains from Mexico to the USA.**



## 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 Russell Lee. Then, answer questions about it.

**Russell Lee**  
**1903–1986**

Russell Lee was one of the most acclaimed American photographers of the twentieth century. Born in Illinois in 1903, he lived half of his life in the Midwest, San Francisco, and New York, before finally settling in Austin.

Dissatisfied with a career in chemical engineering, Lee turned to painting, and then photography. He developed his distinctive style while documenting the effects of the Great Depression on rural communities for the Farm Security Administration. Lee's iconic images of ordinary Americans in extraordinary circumstances helped inspire the form now known as documentary photography.

By the time Lee settled in Austin, in 1947, his reputation as a photographer was well established. From his base in Texas, he continued to travel the world, recording subjects that ranged from the oil fields of Saudi Arabia to life in the distinct regions of Italy.

Lee also trained his lens on Texas. He photographed Spanish-speaking communities across the state and the political campaigns of Ralph Yarborough and Allan Shivers. Lee helped establish the photography program in the art department at The University of Texas, where he taught until his retirement.

Lee died in 1986, leaving a body of work that reveals the truth and dignity of his subjects. As one curator noted, "His essential compassion for the human condition shines forth in every image."

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

1. When did Russell Lee develop his distinctive style of photography?

**While documenting the effects of the Great Depression on rural communities for the Farm Security Administration**

2. What Texas subjects did Lee capture with his photography?

**He photographed Spanish-speaking communities across the state and the political campaigns of Ralph Yarborough and Allan Shivers.**

**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.** How do you think photography affects our understanding of historical events?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 George Thomas "Mickey" Leland. Then, answer questions about it.

### George Thomas "Mickey" Leland 1944–1989

When the Texas House of Representatives met in January 1973, three of the new members were the first African Americans legislators elected to the House since Reconstruction. One of these, twenty-eight-year-old Mickey Leland, entered the Capitol wearing an Afro and a vibrant dashiki. The *New York Times* described him as “a jolt to the conservative Texas body.”

Raised in Houston, Leland was committed to providing jobs for underrepresented groups and health care for the poor. After earning a degree in pharmacy from Texas Southern University, he pushed city officials to establish public health clinics in low-income communities.

Leland remained in the state legislature until 1978, when he won Barbara Jordan’s seat in the U.S. Congress. In Washington, he continued to fight for social justice and the rights of underserved groups.

Leland is best remembered for his fight to end global starvation. He helped create the House Select Committee on World Hunger and in 1985, urged Congress to send \$800 million in famine relief funds to Africa. Tragically, on his sixth trip to Africa, a plane carrying Leland and fifteen others crashed en route to a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

Leland often quoted the Talmud, saying, “If you save one life, you save the whole world.” Today, the Congressional Hunger Center honors his legacy through the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows Program, which trains leaders in ending global starvation.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on George Thomas "Mickey" Leland. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did the *New York Times* describe Mickey Leland after his election to the Texas House of Representatives in 1973?

**The *New York Times* described him as “a jolt to the conservative Texas body.”**

2. What causes did Leland champion during his political career, and how did he try to promote those causes?

**Leland was committed to providing jobs for minorities and health care for the poor. He pushed city officials to establish public health clinics in low-income communities.**

**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.** What do you think is meant by, “if you save one life, you save the whole world,” the passage from the Talmud that Leland often quoted? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Alan Lomax. Then, answer questions about it.

### Alan Lomax 1915–2002

Alan Lomax believed every culture has a “right . . . to equal time on the air and equal time in the classroom.” As the director of the Library of Congress Archive of American Folk Song and as a radio and television host, Lomax introduced folksong to popular audiences and promoted it among students and scholars.

His interest in traditional song started when Lomax was a teenager. In the 1930s, Alan accompanied his father, the prominent folklorist John Lomax, on trips to collect folk songs from prisoners, laborers, and cowboys.

As he matured and developed his own professional identity, Alan Lomax also collected oral histories about the stories behind the songs.

Lomax believed that oral traditions are critical to a nation’s literary and cultural heritage. He feared that modern technology and the commercial music industry would erode traditional practices and deplete musical diversity. Lomax’s work to preserve folksong also provided individuals and communities with opportunities to share their creative traditions with a wider audience.

When Alan Lomax died in 2002, his collection included tens of thousands of musical recordings, preserved for future generations. A contemporary wrote, Alan “was in it for the music, not the money. His gift to all of us was to capture voice after voice, song after song that would have vanished into thin air otherwise.”

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

1. What sparked Alan Lomax’s interest in “traditional” song?

**In the 1930s, Alan accompanied his father, the prominent folklorist John Lomax, on trips to collect folk songs from prisoners, laborers, and cowboys.**

2. What did Lomax worry would harm traditional song and decrease musical diversity?

**He feared that modern technology and the commercial music industry would erode traditional practices and deplete musical diversity.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** In addition to recording songs, Lomax recorded the “stories behind the songs.” Why is it important to preserve cultural context for music? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 John Avery Lomax. Then, answer questions about it.

### John Avery Lomax 1867–1948

Folklorist John Lomax spent his life collecting songs. According to one writer, Lomax would find the music among “chuck wagons, on levees and railroads, in the saloons, churches, and penitentiaries of the South and Southwest.”

John Lomax’s lifelong commitment to preserving folksong began when he first heard cowboy ballads near the Chisholm Trail in Bosque County, Texas. He graduated from The University of Texas in 1897 and later attended Harvard University.

Lomax’s first book, *Cowboy Songs*, was published in 1910 and introduced standards such as “Home on the Range.” His later books broadened the collection to include prison songs plus African American spirituals and blues. Lomax was fascinated by the songs and folklore of those groups at the margins of American society.

John Lomax and his son Alan recorded thousands of songs and helped launch the musical careers of Muddy Waters, Woody Guthrie, Jelly Roll Morton, and a Louisiana convict named Huddie Ledbetter, more commonly known as Leadbelly.

Although early scholars generally viewed folk music as an unchanging tradition, Lomax demonstrated its creative process. He highlighted how centuries-old songs became new American stories as singers added extra verses, different melodies, and new plot twists.

Upon his death in 1948, the *New York Times* quoted the poet Walt Whitman: “If anybody ever did, John Lomax really heard America singing.”

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on John Avery Lomax. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Identify three of the unusual places where John Lomax “found” music.

**Chuck wagons, on levees and railroads, in the saloons, churches, and penitentiaries of the South and Southwest**

2. According to scholars, folk music was an “unchanging tradition.” How did Lomax challenge this conclusion?

**Lomax demonstrated its creative process. He highlighted how centuries-old songs became new American stories as singers added extra verses, different melodies, and new plot twists.**

**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.** Why might some groups use oral histories, like folk music, to preserve their culture?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**





## 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 Antonio Margil de Jesús. Then, answer questions about it.

### Antonio Margil de Jesús 1657–1726

Spanish Texas was more than a provincial frontier. It was part of a larger Atlantic world, and Franciscan missionary Antonio Margil de Jesús embodies its breadth. Father Margil sailed from Spain to evangelize from Costa Rica to East Texas, his achievements resonating through Mexico City, Madrid, Paris, and Rome.

Born in Valencia, Spain, in 1657, Margil joined the Franciscan order as a teenager and in 1683 ventured to Mexico to spread the Catholic faith among the New World's native peoples. He sought the most challenging assignments, traveling barefoot over rough terrain through the Yucatan, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

In the early 1700s, Margil returned to central Mexico to direct missionary colleges in Queretaro and Zacatecas. He then headed north to Texas, where French incursions had renewed Spanish imperial interest. In 1716, Margil joined an expedition to establish missions among the Caddos and other native groups in East Texas. Of the expedition's six mission settlements, Margil founded those at Nacogdoches and Los Adaes.

In 1719, after the French attacked the East Texas missions, the Spaniards retreated to San Antonio. There, Margil founded Mission San José, called the "Queen" of the missions and the best-preserved Texas mission complex today.

Margil died in Mexico City in 1726, advocating for the troubled East Texas missions to the end. The Vatican continues to consider Margil as a candidate for sainthood.

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

1. What brought Antonio Margil de Jesús to Mexico?

**He had joined the Franciscan order and came to Mexico to spread Catholicism.**

2. Name three missions that Margil helped to found.

**Nacodoches, Los Adaes, San Jose**

**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 notes that Margil frequently took the most challenging assignments. What parts of the things that he did would be most challenging for you?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Damián Massanet. Then, answer questions about it.

### Damián Massanet

In 1683, Franciscan priest Damián Massanet left Barcelona to serve as a missionary in the New World. He lived the rest of his life in Mexico, and died in obscurity, but holds an important place in the history of Spanish settlement in Texas.

Massanet spent several years building missions in Mexico. Then, in 1690, he accompanied General Alonso De León, governor of the state of Coahuila, to establish a Spanish presence in Texas. In that year, Mission San Francisco de los Tejas was founded near the Neches River.

The defense of that mission led to sharp disagreements between Massanet and De León. When De León wanted to post fifty soldiers there to control the local Nabedache peoples, Massanet would accept only five. The priest insisted, "There was no necessity at all to leave a large military force in the district since the people were so peaceable and friendly."

However in 1693, after continued disputes with the Caddo peoples, Massanet chose to burn the mission and return to Mexico. Discouraged by his experience in East Texas, he declined later requests to found other missions.

Massanet's Tejas mission lasted for only three years, but it marked the first step in Spain's efforts to bring the lands of Texas under the Spanish flag.

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

1. Why did Damián Massanet build a mission in Texas?

**To establish a Spanish presence in Texas**

2. Why did Massanet refuse De León's attempts to establish a large military presence at the mission?

**The priest insisted, "There was no necessity at all to leave a large military force in the district since the people were so peaceable and friendly."**

**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. **Creating Connections.** What were Spain's three motivations for colonizing the New World? How did building missions in North America help the Spanish accomplish that goal?

**Gold, glory, and God. Missions provided a foothold in America from which to convert native populations to Christianity.**



## 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 Mary Ann Adams Maverick. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mary Ann Adams Maverick 1818–1898

The memoirs of Mary Maverick paint a vivid picture of life on the Texas frontier.

Born in Alabama, Mary moved to San Antonio in 1838 after marrying Samuel Maverick, a veteran of the Texas Revolution.

Sam was a leading figure in the new Republic. He surveyed lands in the distant West and legislated in Austin. Because he was often away, Mary faced the challenges of raising a family alone. Only six of her ten children survived past the age of eight.

Mary chronicled her life in her diaries, which have become an important source for historians. She witnessed the bloody Council House Fight of 1840, a turning point in relations between Texans and the Comanche.

She also writes about Jack Hays, Juan Seguín, and Mirabeau Lamar; notable figures of Texas history appear in her pages not as distant monuments, but as friends and neighbors.

Mary Maverick worked in other ways to honor Texas history. She helped save the Alamo from development. She also promoted the Battle of Flowers—an annual parade still held in San Antonio commemorating the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto.

Maverick died in 1898. Three years before her death she compiled and edited her memoirs with the aid of her son, leaving us with a remarkable account of life in early Texas.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mary Ann Adams Maverick. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did Mary Maverick live while writing her diaries?

**San Antonio**

2. Besides her writing, what else did Maverick do to preserve Texas history?

**She helped save the Alamo from development. She also promoted the Battle of Flowers—an annual parade still held in San Antonio commemorating the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Why is Maverick's memoir a valuable source for Texas history?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: She chronicled her life during an important time, and notable figures of Texas history appear in her pages not as distant monuments, but as friends and neighbors.**



## 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 Jane Y. McCallum. Then, answer questions about it.

**Jane Y. McCallum  
1877–1957**

On June 28, 1919, Jane McCallum wrote in her diary, "Somehow I felt too thankful to be jubilant. We have a great responsibility and I pray God we may meet it squarely and successfully."

The responsibility McCallum referred to was the right to vote—a right American women finally won in 1920 with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. As a leader of Texas women's fight for suffrage, McCallum always met her civic responsibilities "squarely and successfully."

Born in 1877 in LaVernia, Texas, McCallum moved to Austin in 1903 when her husband became school superintendent. In 1915, she was elected president of the Austin Woman Suffrage Association. As she campaigned for women's voting rights, McCallum faced heated criticism. Undaunted, she gave speeches, wrote newspaper columns, and lobbied legislators—all while running a busy, active household.

After women's right to vote had been secured, McCallum took on new responsibilities. She helped the Texas League of Women Voters fight for education, health care, and child labor laws. She was executive secretary of the Women's Joint Legislative Council, a powerful group sometimes known as the "Petticoat Lobby." She also served as Texas Secretary of State under two different governors.

McCallum died in 1957 and is remembered for her lifelong dedication to giving women a voice in the political process, and making sure that voice was heard.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Jane Y. McCallum. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. In what year did American women gain the right to vote?

**1920**

2. What methods did Jane McCallum use to convince legislators to vote in favor of the Nineteenth Amendment?

**She gave speeches, wrote newspaper columns, and lobbied legislators.**

**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.** If you were promoting a cause like McCallum, which of her techniques would you be most likely to use?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 Larry McMurry. Then, answer questions about it.

### Larry McMurry 1936–2021

Author Larry McMurry's unsentimental writing subverted the mythology of the American West.

Born in 1936, McMurry grew up listening to storytellers on the porch of his family's ranch house in Archer City, Texas. He described his "path to authorship . . . [as] a long, stutter-step affair," entailing studies at Rice and Stanford and teaching jobs in Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

In 1961, his first novel, *Horseman, Pass By*, earned critical acclaim for its unsparing depiction of life on a Texas cattle ranch. McMurry's subsequent books depicted small-town drama, larger-than-life characters, and landscapes that seemed to swallow readers whole, immersing them in the myth and reality of Texas.

Many of his books became films, including *The Last Picture Show* and *Terms of Endearment*. His coauthored screenplay for *Brokeback Mountain* earned him an Oscar in 2005. But it was *Lonesome Dove* that cemented McMurry's reputation as chronicler of an unromanticized West. The 1985 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about an epic but ill-fated cattle drive became a television phenomenon: an Emmy-winning miniseries with twenty-six million viewers.

McMurry added the National Humanities Medal and honors from the Texas Institute of Letters to his Oscars, Emmys, and Pulitzer. He was also a serious book collector, and, though he passed away in 2021, the bookstore he owned in his hometown of Archer City remains open, right off Main Street.

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

1. What was Larry McMurry's first novel?  
***Horseman, Pass By***
2. What was McMurry's most famous novel, and what was it about?  
***Lonesome Dove* was about an "epic but ill-fated cattle drive."**

**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 "subverted" mean?  
**"Subvert" means to undermine. McMurry's writing covered the same subjects as the mythology of the American west, but it undermined the legends in the way he described his characters, settings, and stories.**



## 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 Marion Koogler McNay. Then, answer questions about it.

### Marion Koogler McNay 1883–1950

Once described as the “Gertrude Stein of San Antonio,” Marion Koogler McNay created the first museum of modern art in Texas.

McNay was born in 1883 and raised in Kansas, the only child of parents who made their fortune in oil. She showed an early passion for painting and attended the Art Institute of Chicago.

In 1926, she moved to San Antonio and began construction of an ornate Spanish Colonial Revival home. She soon began buying art, amassing a rich collection of European and American pieces. She especially loved the art of the American Southwest.

McNay also invested in artists. In 1942, she offered use of her home to the San Antonio Art Institute, preventing the school’s closure. Her friend, the sculptor Charles Umlauf, said that she “always had the sympathy of the artist at hand because she herself was an artist.”

McNay died in 1950. She bequeathed her expansive residence, its twenty-three acres, and more than seven hundred works of art to the San Antonio community. She said her goal was to make her museum “a place of beauty with the comforts and warmth of a home.”

Today, the McNay Art Museum is one of the state’s cultural treasures, boasting a remarkable collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century works of art, including works by Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Georgia O’Keefe, and other European and American masters.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Marion Koogler McNay. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What types of art did Marion Koogler McNay collect?

**European and American pieces. She especially loved the art of the American Southwest.**

2. How did McNay help prevent the closure of the San Antonio Art Institute?

**She offered use of her home to the San Antonio Art Institute.**

**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 type of art would you collect if you could establish a museum? Why? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 Lydia Mendoza. Then, answer questions about it.

### Lydia Mendoza 1916–2007

In the 1930s, San Antonio plazas thrummed with music. Among the few female performers were the Mendozas—Leonora and her daughters, including sixteen-year-old Lydia, who captivated listeners with her clarion voice and skillful accompaniment on the twelve-string guitar.

Lydia sometimes performed solo, singing folk and popular songs whose lyrics she'd often learned from gum wrappers. She attracted the attention of a local radio announcer, who offered her \$3.50 a week to perform on air, a godsend for the struggling family.

Mendoza's solo recording career began with Bluebird Records. Her first hit, "Mal Hombre," an indictment of machismo culture, became her signature song. She was a pioneer of *Música Tejana*, a rich hybrid of conjunto, rancheras, and other styles that captured the passions and heartaches of border life. No matter the song style, Mendoza once said, "When I sing that song, I live that song."

Mendoza went on to perform for large audiences throughout the United States, Mexico, Cuba, and Colombia. Her success opened doors for other Tejana singers. Nicknamed the "Lark of the Border," Mendoza recorded hundreds of songs and toured until a stroke ended her legendary career.

Mendoza was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame and awarded the National Medal of the Arts. In 1982, she became the first Texan awarded the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship for lifetime achievement.

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

1. Where and how did Lydia Mendoza begin her career?

**She began singing on the plaza of San Antonio with her mother and sisters.**

2. What song style did Mendoza pioneer?

**Musica tejana**

**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 Mendoza meant when she said "when I sing that song, I live that song"?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Dominique and John de Menil. Then, answer questions about it.

### **Dominique and John de Menil 1908–1997 (D); 1904–1973(J)**

Houston is the home of world-class art. That's due in part to the generosity of Dominique and John de Menil, a French couple who left their Nazi-occupied homeland in 1941, ultimately settling in Houston.

As John rose to prominence in the oil industry, he and Dominique developed a passion for collecting art. Inspired by their friendship with Father Marie-Alain Couturier, a Dominican priest who championed a new religious art, the de Menils became fascinated with modern art that served a transcendent purpose.

Recognizing spiritual and artistic links between contemporary art and the traditions that preceded it, the couple's enthusiasm soon extended to the arts of Indigenous peoples, and later to antiquities and medieval and Byzantine art.

Houston institutions benefited immensely from their patronage, including the de Menils' Rothko Chapel, a non-denominational chapel with works by mid-century abstract painter Mark Rothko.

But the couple's greatest contribution to Houston is their own museum, the Menil Collection, which opened in 1987, fourteen years after John's passing. Dominique guided the museum—watching her lovingly curated collection become a world-renowned institution—until her death in 1997.

Housed in buildings designed by famed architect Renzo Piano, the museum is celebrated for its modern and contemporary masterpieces and holds one of the world's foremost collections of Surrealist art. Just as important, the museum remains true to the de Menils' vision of art as a spiritual pursuit.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Dominique and John de Menil. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What types of art did Dominique and John de Menil collect?

**Modern art that served a transcendent purpose**

2. How did the de Menils guarantee that others might also enjoy their love of art?

**They created a museum.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** The de Menils left France in 1941. Why might they have felt unsafe in their homeland?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: WWII was taking place, and they may have faced persecution.**





## 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 Alice Dickerson Montemayor. Then, answer questions about it.

### Alice Dickerson Montemayor 1902–1989

Alice Dickerson Montemayor was a feminist, activist, wife, mother, and artist—and she was always busy.

Born in Laredo in 1902, Montemayor's plan to become a lawyer changed after her father's early death. She attended business school, married, and had two sons, then took a job as a social worker. She faced racism and sexism in her profession, at one point working outdoors under a tree when she was denied an office.

Such experiences spurred Montemayor's activism. In 1936, she joined the League of United Latin American Citizens, eventually serving as second national vice president. Writing in the organization's newsletter, she condemned sexism, even within LULAC, and encouraged women to vote and work outside the home. She herself held a series of demanding jobs, including dress shop owner, department store manager, and school registrar.

After retiring, Montemayor discovered yet another career. One Mother's Day, her son gave her a paint set—but nothing to paint on. "I found an old bit of tin," she said, "put a background color on it, and began." Her lively, colorful scenes of family life and nature were admired by critics. In her art as in her life, Montemayor simply refused to acknowledge limits: figures in her paintings often ignored formal boundaries and extended onto the frames of her work. When she died in 1989, she was a nationally celebrated folk artist.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Alice Dickerson Montemayor. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Alice Dickerson Montemayor belonged to what civil rights organization?

**League of United Latin American Citizens**

2. After retirement, what did Montemayor begin doing?

**She began to paint and was a celebrated folk artist by the time of her death.**

**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.** Montemayor held many different jobs during her lifetime. Which of them would you choose and why?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 William "Willie" Morris. Then, answer questions about it.

### William "Willie" Morris 1934–1999

Writer and editor Willie Morris was born in Mississippi and made his name in New York, but he left an indelible mark on Texas journalism.

In 1952, Morris enrolled at The University of Texas, where he worked as a reporter for the *Daily Texan*. Morris ultimately became editor-in-chief, writing blunt editorials about the lack of student representation in university decisions and the influence of lobbyists on the state legislature.

After graduating, Morris left Texas to study at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. But he returned to Austin several years later to resume his role as political gadfly, signing on as editor of the *Texas Observer*, a journal known for its commitment to progressive causes.

"Texas was where I reached maturity," Morris later recalled. Writing about "politics, the ambivalent and exposed world of the politician, . . . taught me about the complexity of human affairs, about the irrelevancy of most dogmatic formulas, about loyalty and courage and devotion to human causes."

Morris moved to New York City in 1963 to edit *Harper's* magazine and never lived in Texas again.

Morris's masterful memoir *North Toward Home*, published in 1967, recalls his time in Texas and paints a compelling picture of the state during the Eisenhower and Kennedy years. Today, the *Daily Texan* still recognizes the paper's best opinion writing with the annual Willie Morris Award for Editorial Excellence.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on William "Willie" Morris. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. In what field did Willie Morris leave his mark on Texas?

**Journalism**

2. On what issues did Morris focus his editorials during his time at the *Daily Texan*?

**The lack of student representation in university decisions and the influence of lobbyists on the state legislature**

**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.** How do editorials relate to other forms of journalism?

**Editorials are opinions.**



## 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 Audie Leon Murphy. Then, answer questions about it.

### Audie Leon Murphy 1925–1971

Born in 1925 in a Hunt County sharecropper's shack, Audie Murphy recalled being "thrown into the struggle for existence" as a child. Orphaned at sixteen, he escaped a life of poverty when the United States entered World War II. The undersized Murphy lied about his age to enlist in the army.

Murphy's courage and ferocity earned him multiple honors throughout the war in Europe. In January 1945, he single-handedly fought off six Panzer tanks and 250 German infantry for over an hour, earning the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Returning home a national hero, Murphy was convinced by film legend James Cagney to take up acting and became one of the most popular movie stars of the 1950s, playing the lead in many westerns and in director John Huston's epic *The Red Badge of Courage*. Murphy also wrote a best-selling memoir about his wartime experiences and played himself in the movie adaptation.

But the war dogged Murphy. Gambling debts and unpaid taxes complicated his postwar life, and he struggled with insomnia and outbursts of violence that landed him in legal trouble. In 1971, a private plane on which he was a passenger crashed in Virginia, killing all aboard.

Murphy, one of the most decorated American combat soldiers of World War II, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He was forty-five years old.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Audie Leon Murphy. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What did Audie Leon Murphy do to earn the Medal of Honor in World War II?  
**He "single-handedly fought off six Panzer tanks and 250 German infantry for over an hour."**
2. What did Murphy do after the war?  
**He went to Hollywood, starred in a number of films, and wrote his memoir.**

**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.** Murphy called the memoir of his wartime experience *To Hell and Back*. What does this imply about what he faced during war?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: The experience of war is very difficult and traumatic.**



## 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 Jose Antonio Navarro. Then, answer questions about it.

### Jose Antonio Navarro 1795–1871

Tejano leader José Antonio Navarro lived under five of the six flags of Texas.

Born in 1795 to a prominent family in San Antonio, Navarro grew up along with his city. In the 1820s, he championed Stephen F. Austin's colonization efforts. At the time, both Anglo American immigrants and Tejano residents wanted increased settlement in Texas for economic development and frontier defense. When trouble arose between the Texans and Mexico's government, Navarro was one of two Tejanos to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836.

Many of the newly arrived Anglo settlers discriminated against Texans of Mexican origin. Some Tejano veterans of the Revolution moved away. But Navarro stayed, defending Tejano rights.

In 1841, Navarro joined the ill-conceived Santa Fe Expedition, which attempted to join New Mexico to Texas. He was imprisoned in Mexico for nearly four years as a result, but returned to support Texas's annexation to the United States. As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1845, Navarro helped defeat a proposal that would deprive Tejanos of the right to vote.

The secession crisis again tested Navarro's politics. He was torn between unionist sentiment and states' rights principles, but survived the crisis with his commitment to Texas intact.

After the Civil War, Navarro retired from public life and became a respected elder statesman. He died in 1871.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Jose Antonio Navarro. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did many Tejano residents, including José Antonio Navarro, support Anglo American settlement in Texas?

**For economic development and frontier defense.**

2. How did Navarro champion Tejano rights as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1845?

**Navarro helped defeat a proposal that would deprive Tejanos of the right to vote.**

**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.** If you were Navarro, would you have stayed in Texas following the Revolution? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 Elisabet Ney. Then, answer questions about it.

### Elisabet Ney 1833–1907

In the south foyer of the Texas State Capitol stand two life-sized statues: one of Sam Houston, the other of Stephen F. Austin. These men helped shape the state of Texas, but their marble likenesses were shaped by the hands of Elisabet Ney.

Ney was born in Prussia in 1833, when ladies were expected merely to dabble in art, certainly not study it as a career. But Ney became the first woman admitted to Munich's celebrated Academy of Fine Arts to study sculpture. She quickly achieved fame as an artist, traveling through Europe sculpting royalty, politicians, and celebrities.

When the Franco-Prussian War erupted in 1870, Ney and her husband fled to the United States, eventually settling on a plantation near Hempstead, Texas. There, she scandalized her neighbors, wearing bloomers around the plantation grounds and using her maiden name. In Texas, just as in Europe, Ney forged her own path.

In the early 1890s, Elisabet Ney, almost sixty years old, received the commission for the now-famous Capitol statues. She opened a studio in Austin, which became a salon where important Texans discussed art and politics. After Ney's death in 1907, that studio became a public museum. And in her memory, friends founded the Texas Fine Arts Association—the first organization dedicated to promoting art throughout the state.

Elisabet Ney left a legacy for all Texans—in the statues she carved and in the institutions that honor her life's work.

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

1. How did Elisabet Ney gain fame as an artist in Europe prior to moving to Texas?  
**By traveling through Europe sculpting royalty, politicians, and celebrities**
2. Two of Ney's best-known sculptures stand at the state capitol. Who were the subjects of these sculptures?

**Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin**

**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.** According to the episode, Ney "scandalized her neighbors" by wearing bloomers (pants) and using her maiden name. Why would this have been considered scandalous?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: She was not following the accepted standards of the time and would have been expected to wear dresses and use her husband's last name.**



## 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 Josefina Niggli. Then, answer questions about it.

**Josefina Niggli  
1910–1983**

Twentieth-century playwright and novelist Josefina Niggli once wrote, “When I was ... starting out as a writer, I had a shining goal. I was going to present Mexico and the Mexicans as they had never before been presented.”

Born in 1910 to Anglo parents in Monterrey, Mexico, Niggli grew up in both Monterrey and San Antonio, Texas. After graduating from Incarnate Word College, she studied playwriting at the San Antonio Little Theater. National magazines began publishing her short stories and poems. She later moved to North Carolina and earned an MA in drama from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Niggli’s works, written in English for American audiences, often highlighted tensions within Mexican society and between the cultures of Mexico and the United States.

Her most influential work was *Mexican Village*—a 1945 collection of related stories that form a composite portrait of Hidalgo, Mexico. Her play *Soldadera* depicts women soldiers of the Mexican Revolution. At a time when American media often stereotyped Mexicans as villains and louts, Niggli provided an authentic and nuanced view of life across the border.

One New York Times critic wrote, “Niggli sweeps into the discard a whole library of books by Americans purporting to tell us of Mexican life.”

Niggli died in 1983. Her bicultural perspective is now recognized as a critical precursor to the Mexican American writers who followed her.

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

1. Name the two cities that Josefina Niggli spent most of her time when she was growing up.  
**Monterrey, Mexico, and San Antonio, Texas**
2. What is the title of the play that Niggli wrote about the Mexican Revolution?  
***Soldadera***

**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.** Niggli worked to fight against Mexican stereotypes with her writing. What stereotypes would you try to fight against if you were an author?  
**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Chester William Nimitz. Then, answer questions about it.

### Chester William Nimitz 1885–1966

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 left the U.S. Navy stunned. With American ships still smoldering in the water, Navy Secretary Frank Knox turned to a Texan, Chester Nimitz, to restore confidence in the Pacific Fleet.

Nimitz was born in Fredericksburg in 1885. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1905 and then served in several command and staff positions, including the new Atlantic submarine fleet.

In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, U.S. and Australian forces thwarted Japanese advances and Admiral Nimitz rolled across the Pacific, hopping from island to island, including Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Once bombing attacks began on the Japanese homeland in 1945, a U. S. victory was inevitable.

Despite his success, Nimitz was a modest man. Journalist Robert Sherrod said Nimitz "conceived of war as something to be accomplished as efficiently and smoothly as possible, without too much fanfare." When the war in the Pacific was finally won, charismatic Army General Douglas MacArthur got the glory. Nimitz never wanted it. He said, "Being a part of the Navy is honorable and soul-satisfying work," and that was enough for him.

After Nimitz's death in 1966, his grandfather's hotel in Fredericksburg became the Admiral Nimitz Museum, now part of the larger National Museum of the Pacific War. There, in a small, landlocked Texas town, visitors can learn more about one of the U.S. Navy's greatest commanders.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Chester William Nimitz. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What event happened before Admiral Nimitz was chosen to lead the Pacific Fleet?

**The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor**

2. What was Admiral Nimitz's approach to war?

**Journalist Robert Sherrod said Nimitz "conceived of war as something to be accomplished as efficiently and smoothly as possible, without too much fanfare."**

**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.** Do you think Admiral Nimitz's leadership style was effective? Why or why not?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Frederick Law Olmsted. Then, answer questions about it.

### Frederick Law Olmsted 1822–1903

Connecticut-born Frederick Law Olmsted is best known for his design of New York's Central Park. But his writings on the slaveholding South, including Texas, enjoyed critical acclaim in the 1850s for their detailed descriptions and keen social commentary.

The *New York Times* sent Olmsted to the South to record his observations. On his second trip, he and his brother John arrived in Texas on Christmas Day, 1853.

The brothers traveled two thousand miles on horseback through the state. Their journey took them through the East Texas swamps, the coastal plains, and cities such as Austin and Houston, but Olmsted was most impressed by the German settlers in towns like New Braunfels and Sisterdale, calling them “free-thinking, cultivated, brave men.”

Olmsted recorded local slang, the prices of various commodities, and what he called the “bewildering beauty” of the landscape. But he also described the cruelty and economic inefficiency of slavery.

While he did not identify himself as an abolitionist, Olmsted found slavery morally repugnant and hoped to encourage non-slaveholding immigrants to settle in Texas.

Olmsted was so taken with this land of “inexpressible” beauty that he and his brother John briefly considered settling near one of the German colonies he so admired. Although his plan never came to fruition, Olmsted’s writings remain some of the most thorough and engaging nineteenth-century travel accounts of the state.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Frederick Law Olmsted. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Frederick Law Olmsted and his brother traveled over 2,000 miles across Texas in the 1850s. Identify three areas they visited.

**East Texas swamps, the coastal plains, and cities such as Austin and Houston, New Braunfels and Sisterdale**

2. For what is Olmsted best known?

**His design of New York’s Central Park.**

**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.** What might Olmsted have been trying to accomplish with his plan to encourage non-slaveholding immigrants to settle in Texas? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: Olmsted found slavery morally repugnant and, by encouraging non-slaveholding immigrants to settle in Texas, he may have tried to end slavery in Texas.**





## 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 Américo Paredes. Then, answer questions about it.

### Américo Paredes 1915–1999

The writer and folklorist Américo Paredes was born in Brownsville in 1915. Even as a youth, he saw that a distinct culture had emerged in the Rio Grande Valley—not just Mexican or American, but a blend of both.

After serving as an Army journalist during World War II, Paredes returned to his home state to train as a scholar. In 1956, he became the first Mexican American to receive a doctorate in English from The University of Texas.

Paredes made the border the focus of his forty-year career. He studied and celebrated the distinctive stories and humor of the lower Rio Grande, at the same time fighting to correct prejudice against Mexicans and Mexican Americans.

Paredes described his most famous work of scholarship—titled *With His Pistol in His Hand*—as “two books in one.” It tells the story of Gregorio Cortez, a Tejano ranchhand accused of murder who evaded capture by the Texas Rangers for more than a week. The book is also a pioneering study of the border ballads—or corridos—that later portrayed Cortez as a symbol of courage and resistance.

Paredes also wrote poetry and fiction and inspired writers of the Chicano literary movement in the sixties and seventies.

Paredes died in 1999. He is now regarded as one of the foremost Mexican American scholars of the twentieth century.

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

1. What was the focus of Américo Paredes’s writings?

**The border of Mexico and America.**

2. Why did Paredes describe his most famous work, *With His Pistol in His Hand*, as “two books in one”?

**It tells the story of Gregorio Cortez, a Tejano ranchhand accused of murder who evaded capture by the Texas Rangers for more than a week. The book is also a pioneering study of the border ballads—or corridos—that later portrayed Cortez as a symbol of courage and resistance.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Paredes wrote about Mexicans and Mexican Americans as a way of fighting against prejudice. At the beginning of his career, in the mid-1950s, what nation-wide movement was gaining momentum?

**Chicano Movement**



## 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 Cynthia Ann Parker. Then, answer questions about it.

### Cynthia Ann Parker 1827–1871

Cynthia Ann Parker is the most famous Comanche captive in American history.

She was born in Illinois, around 1827. In 1833, her family moved to Texas and built Fort Parker in what is now Limestone County, east of Waco. Comanche warriors attacked the fort in 1836 and took young Cynthia Ann captive.

Parker spent the next twenty-four years with the Comanche, eventually marrying the warrior Peta Nocona, with whom she had two sons and a daughter. White traders and soldiers spotted Parker several times during these years, but she refused to abandon her Comanche family. In 1860, however, Texas Rangers and federal soldiers abducted her, with her infant daughter, in an attack on a Comanche encampment in north Texas.

Parker was reunited with the white family she no longer remembered. Sadly, she struggled to readjust. A number of times she tried to escape with her daughter and return to the Comanche and her two sons.

Parker died in 1871 and was buried in Anderson County in East Texas. Her son Quanah—who became the most important Comanche leader of his day—later had her reinterred near his home in Oklahoma. In 1957, the federal government relocated her remains, along with those of Quanah and some seven hundred other Comanches, to the cemetery at Fort Sill.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Cynthia Ann Parker. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Cynthia Ann Parker come to live with the Comanche?

**Comanche warriors attacked Fort Parker in 1836 and took young Cynthia Ann captive.**

2. For how long did Parker live with the Comanche?

**Twenty-four years**

**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.** Why do you think Parker tried to rejoin the Comanche after being taken away by Texas Rangers?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: She struggled to readjust.**



## 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 Quanah Parker. Then, answer questions about it.

### Quanah Parker 1845–1911

Born about 1845, Comanche leader Quanah Parker lived two vastly different lives: the first as a warrior among the Plains Indians of Texas, and the second as a pragmatic leader who sought a place for his people in a rapidly changing America.

Parker's birth was a direct result of the conflict between Native Americans and white settlers. His mother, Cynthia Parker, was captured by the Comanche as a child and later married his father, Chief Peta Nocona.

In 1860, after Parker's father was killed by Texas Rangers, young Quanah moved west, where he joined the Quahada Comanche. Parker proved an able leader, fighting with the Quahada against the spread of white settlement.

But in 1875, following the U.S. Army's relentless Red River campaign, Parker and the Quahada ultimately surrendered and moved to reservation lands in Oklahoma.

In his new life, Parker quickly established himself as a successful rancher and investor. The government officials he had once fought soon recognized him as the leader of the remaining Comanche tribes.

Parker encouraged Comanche youth to learn the ways of white culture, yet he never assimilated entirely. He remained a member of the Native American Church, and had a total of seven wives.

The respect Parker earned is evident in the Panhandle town of Quanah. There, by the Hardeman County Courthouse, stands a monument to the town's namesake: Quanah Parker, chief of the Comanche.

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

1. What professions did Quanah Parker undertake after moving to reservation lands in Oklahoma?

**He was a successful rancher and investor.**

2. What event led Parker to move west and fight against the spread of white settlement?

**Parker's father was killed by Texas Rangers.**

**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.** After being forced onto reservation lands in Oklahoma, how did Parker retain aspects of his Comanche culture?

**He continued to follow some traditional practices and remained a member of the Native American Church.**



## 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 Alonso S. Perales. Then, answer questions about it.

### Alonso S. Perales 1898–1960

A South Texas lawyer with a keen sense of justice, Alonso Perales created one of the nation's largest and most enduring Mexican American civil rights organizations.

Born in Alice in 1898, Perales grew up an orphan. After working in agriculture and on railroads, he pursued education in San Antonio and Washington, DC, then served in the army during World War I. He returned to Texas committed to fighting discrimination as one of the state's earliest Mexican American lawyers.

In 1929 in Corpus Christi, Perales and his colleagues founded the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, an influential civil rights organization. Perales authored the group's founding documents and served as one of its presidents. Through LULAC, Perales sought to achieve political equality and economic self-sufficiency for Mexican Americans in the Southwest.

Perales's vision did not end there. He also served as a diplomat in Latin America and the West Indies, most notably as US consul to Nicaragua from 1937 to 1960. The hemispheric perspective he gained from these experiences informed his approach to civil rights in the United States.

Over a long career, Perales advocated for voting rights, immigration reform, and equality in public education, especially in his hometown of San Antonio. He died in 1960, but his efforts continued to bear fruit in the civil rights movements that flowered in the decades to come.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Alonso S. Perales. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What did Alonso S. Perales hope to accomplish through LULAC?

**Perales sought political equality and economic self-sufficiency for Mexican Americans in the Southwest.**

2. What role did Perales serve in that gave him a broader perspective on civil rights?

**He served as a diplomat in Latin America and the West Indies.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Perales died in 1960, but the episode notes that he laid the groundwork for many advances in civil rights that came later. What important legislation passed in the 1960s related to civil rights?

**The Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968; the Voting Rights Act of 1965**



## 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 George Sessions Perry. Then, answer questions about it.

### George Sessions Perry 1910–1956

Author George Sessions Perry captured Texas cotton culture like no other writer. Born in 1910 in Rockdale, Texas, he spent much of his career rendering a fictional version of his beloved hometown.

In 1937, Perry sold his first story to the *Saturday Evening Post*, beginning a lifelong relationship with the magazine. Inspired by John Steinbeck and J. Frank Dobie, Perry published his first novel, titled *Walls Rise Up*, in 1939.

Perry's most acclaimed work was 1941's *Hold Autumn in Your Hand*, a vivid depiction of Depression-era cotton farming. The novel recounts a year in the life of a Milam County tenant farmer and reflects Perry's appreciation for rural life, as well as his criticism of the exploitative conditions of sharecropping. A 1945 film adaptation was directed by Jean Renoir.

During World War II, Perry worked as a correspondent covering the Allied invasion of Sicily. He once told a friend that his wartime experiences "de-fictionized" him. Afterward, he focused more on nonfiction and journalism and found his writing in high demand by the country's leading publications.

However, Perry struggled with arthritis and depression and ultimately died at the age of forty-six. His works remain, as one critic wrote, the best picture we have of the state's pre-industrial cotton culture—"a world of subsistence farming and the yearlong ritual of planting and picking."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on George Sessions Perry. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was George Sessions Perry's most acclaimed work, and what subject did it cover?  
***Hold Autumn in Your Hand* depicted Depression-era cotton farming.**
2. How did Perry's writing change after his wartime experience?  
**He turned away from fiction, mostly focusing on non-fiction and journalism.**

**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.** If you were selecting between writing fiction and non-fiction, which would you choose and why?  
**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Alonso Álvarez de Pineda. Then, answer questions about it.

### Alonso Álvarez de Pineda 1494–1520

Spanish explorer Alonso Álvarez de Pineda was the first European to set eyes on the land that would become Texas. His 1519 expedition mapped the American Gulf Coast, creating the very first document of Texas history.

Scholars know little of Álvarez's background. He first appears in the record amid the intrigues of the Spanish conquest of North America. In 1519, as fellow conquistador Hernán Cortés began his fateful campaign against the Aztecs, Álvarez set sail from Jamaica, journeying north to Florida and then following the Gulf Coast west and south all the way to Veracruz.

Álvarez did not find what he sought—a passage to the Pacific. He did, however, prove to Spain that Florida and the Yucatan belonged to the same continent. He also mapped the Gulf Coast, making him the first European to document the mouth of the Mississippi River and the land that became Texas.

At the end of his journey, Álvarez settled in Mexico on the Pánuco River inland from Tampico. He then journeyed to Veracruz to inform Cortés of his activities. Fearing Álvarez's colonial ambitions in Mexico, Cortés turned him away.

Their rivalry would be short. In 1520, Huastec natives wiped out the settlement on the Pánuco, killing Álvarez. In some ways, he remains a "mystery man" of the Spanish conquest, but his contributions to the exploration of Texas stand.

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

1. When does Alonso Álvarez de Pineda first appear in the historical record?  
**Álvarez first appears "amid the intrigues" of Spanish colonization of North America, on Hernan Cortes' expedition.**
2. Álvarez did not find a passage to the Pacific but he did gain important knowledge for Spain. Name two things he learned.  
**He proved that Florida and the Yucatan were a part of the same continent, and he mapped the Gulf Coast.**

**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.** Why do you think the episode refers to Álvarez as a "mystery man"?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: There is limited information about him in the historical record.**



## 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 Katherine Ann Porter. Then, answer questions about it.

### Katherine Ann Porter 1890–1980

Critics call Texas-born writer Katherine Anne Porter a “poet of the story.” Her carefully crafted short fiction earned her the highest acclaim, including the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

Porter was born in 1890 in Indian Creek to a family of modest means. As an adult, she lived for several years in Mexico, and later at points throughout the U.S. and Europe. But her most accomplished stories spring from her childhood in central Texas—what she once called her “native land of the heart.”

In masterpieces such as “The Old Order” and “Noon Wine,” Porter renders the turbulent interior lives of her characters with precise, translucent prose. Betrayal and self-delusion are common themes. In the story “Old Mortality,” the young heroine Miranda Gay shakes off “the legend of the past,” resolving to make “her own discoveries.” Yet the whole of Porter’s fiction emphasizes how difficult self-knowledge is to achieve.

When asked whether her fiction was autobiographical, Porter explained that her stories were “true in the way that a work of fiction should be true, created out of all the scattered particles of life I was able to absorb and combine and shape into new being.”

In 2002, First Lady Laura Bush dedicated Porter’s childhood home in Kyle as a National Literary Landmark. The home is now a thriving literary center operated by Texas State University.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Katherine Ann Porter. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Katherine Ann Porter describe her childhood home in Central Texas?  
**She described her childhood home as her “native land of the heart.”**

2. What theme did Porter emphasize throughout her fictional writing?  
**Betrayal and self-delusion are common themes.**

**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.** Porter described her stories as “...created out of all the scattered particles of life I was able to absorb and combine and shape into new being.” Why do you think this might be appealing to readers?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 William Sydney Porter (O. Henry). Then, answer questions about it.

### William Sydney Porter (O. Henry) 1862–1910

William Sydney Porter—better known by his pen name, O. Henry—was born in North Carolina and died in New York. But his sixteen years in Texas, from 1882 to 1898, made a lasting mark on his life and work.

In Texas, Porter developed an abiding love for the American West. He worked as a ranch hand, a pharmacist, a draftsman; edited his own newspaper; and met his wife. It was also in Texas where Porter was found guilty of embezzling funds from an Austin bank where he worked as a teller. He served three years in a federal prison before being released in 1901.

While behind bars, Porter began writing and selling short stories to major magazines under assumed names.

In those stories, Porter portrays the Lone Star state as a vast place with its own laws. The stories describe in rich detail the ranches, prairies, and settlements of South and Central Texas. Author J. Frank Dobie called Porter's story "The Last of the Troubadours" "the best range story in American fiction."

Today, critics place O. Henry among the lesser stars of literature, but his popularity as an author of short stories has rarely been equaled. The house where he stayed in San Antonio—saved from destruction by the San Antonio Conservation Society—sits at the corner of Laredo and Dolorosa streets. And his former Austin home, now the O. Henry Museum, attracts thousands of visitors annually.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on William Sydney Porter (O. Henry). Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What careers did William Sydney Porter pursue before becoming a writer?

**He worked as a ranch hand, a pharmacist, a draftsman, a bank teller and edited his own newspaper.**

2. How does Porter describe Texas in his writings?

**Porter portrays the Lone Star state as a vast place with its own laws.**

**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.** Why do you think Porter used assumed names to publish his short stories?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: He was in federal prison.**





## 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 Selena Quintanilla Pérez. Then, answer questions about it.

### Selena Quintanilla Pérez 1971–1995

Selena Quintanilla Pérez is one of the most recognizable Texans in modern history. The Grammy-winning singer's cumbia rhythms and magnetic stage presence brought Tejano music to unprecedented levels of success.

Born in 1971, Selena grew up surrounded by music, performing with her siblings at the family restaurant in Lake Jackson. In the early 1980s, the family moved to Corpus Christi, and Selena y los Dinos released their first single. By eighteen, Selena had a major record deal and the first of many Tejano Music Awards.

Already a hometown legend in Corpus, Selena's star rose quickly in the Latin music market with hits like "Como la Flor" and "Bidi Bidi Bom Bom." The queen of Tejano music was poised to break into the English-language market.

In February 1995, Selena broke attendance records with a spectacular concert at the Houston Astrodome. This would be her swan song; the following month, she was shockingly murdered by Yolanda Saldivar, the former president of Selena's fan club, in a business dispute. The loss sparked an outpouring of grief across the Southwest and anticipation for her final album, *Dreaming of You*.

Selena's legacy has only grown in the years since and rightly so. She was a rare artist who could be both relatable and ethereal, silly and serious, proud of her South Texas roots while sharing her gift with the world.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Selena Quintanilla Pérez. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did Selena Quintanilla Pérez first begin performing?

**At her family's restaurant in Lake Jackson, Texas**

2. What was the name of her final album?

***Dreaming of You***

**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 notes that Selena's fame only grew following her tragic death. What impact do you think she might have continued to have on Tejano music if she had not been murdered?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Irma Lerma Rangel. Then, answer questions about it.

### Irma Lerma Rangel 1931–2003

Irma Rangel was the first Mexican American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Her insistence that, as she put it, you “can do great things if you focus on helping others” is a fitting summary of her decades of service.

Born in Kingsville in 1931, Rangel chose education as her first career, teaching in Texas, California, and Venezuela. In 1969, she earned a law degree and embarked upon a second career in politics.

Convinced that Mexican American women needed greater representation in government, she ran for a seat in the Texas House in 1976 serving a region in deep South Texas. She won that election and held the office for the rest of her life. In 1993, she became the first woman to lead the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

Rangel focused her remarkable political acumen on education and social welfare. In 1997, she accomplished her core legislative achievement, the Top Ten Percent Plan, which expanded accessibility and increased diversity in the state’s public universities.

In 2001, she helped establish the College of Pharmacy at Texas A&M–Kingsville, which was the first professional school in South Texas. Upon her death in 2003, the school was renamed in her honor.

Reflecting upon her career, Rangel once said, "I couldn't be something other than what I had been born to be."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Irma Lerma Rangel. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was Irma Lerma Rangel's first career?

**She was a teacher.**

2. Rangel became the first woman to lead what group within the Texas Legislature?

**The Mexican American Legislative Caucus**

**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.** How might Rangel's Top Ten Percent Plan serve as a good example of her remark that you "can do great things if you focus on helping others"?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Harry Hunt Ransom. Then, answer questions about it.

### Harry Hunt Ransom 1908–196

The Gutenberg Bible, completed in 1454, is the first substantial book printed with movable type. Of the twenty-one complete copies in existence, one is on view at The University of Texas at Austin's Harry Ransom Center. This book—and the center that houses it—are the proud legacy of Chancellor Harry Hunt Ransom, known as “The Great Acquisitor.”

Born in Galveston in 1908, Ransom came to UT in 1935 as an English instructor. Over the years he served as dean, provost, president, and chancellor. Ransom firmly believed that a strong library system was critical for a successful education, and he spent his career working to strengthen the university's collection.

Ransom founded the Humanities Research Center in 1957. He knew he could not compete with the rare collections that institutions such as Harvard and Yale had built over many years, so he focused on modern authors. The result is one of the world's finest collections of twentieth-century writing, with materials from such luminaries as James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, and George Bernard Shaw.

Ransom's ultimate purpose was not simply to amass valuable books and manuscripts. He sought a collection of what he called “knowledgeable people.”

After Ransom's death in 1976, the Humanities Research Center was renamed in his honor. Today, its treasures continue to draw scholars to The University of Texas, creating a continuing flow of knowledgeable people of which Ransom would have been proud.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Harry Hunt Ransom. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was Harry Hunt Ransom's nickname during his time as chancellor at The University of Texas at Austin?

**“The Great Acquisitor”**

2. How did Ransom try to strengthen UT's library system?

**Ransom founded the Humanities Research Center in 1957 and focused on modern authors. He sought a collection of what he called “knowledgeable people.”**

**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.** Do you think that technology is changing the need for physical libraries?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 Robert Rauschenberg. Then, answer questions about it.

### Robert Rauschenberg 1925–2008

Port Arthur native Robert Rauschenberg was in his twenties before he saw paintings in a museum. The experience impressed him deeply. Within two decades, he would become one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century.

Rauschenberg studied pharmacology at The University of Texas before being drafted during World War II. He later studied at the Kansas City Art Institute and in Paris and attended the avant-garde Black Mountain College in North Carolina.

In 1949, Rauschenberg moved to New York. Looking beyond the Abstract Expressionism of that time, he realized that, as he put it, “painting relates to both art and life.”

Curious, open-minded, and unafraid of failure, Rauschenberg experimented with diverse materials. On the streets of lower Manhattan, he scavenged found objects—used boxes, tires, clocks—creating multilayered assemblages he called *Combines* that, in the words of critic Robert Hughes, “connect[ed] the language of his images to that of the wider world.” In the 1960s, he and Andy Warhol simultaneously incorporated the commercial technique of silkscreen printing into their artwork.

Rauschenberg was also a pioneer in printmaking, photography, choreography, and set design, collaborating with a diverse array of choreographers, composers, engineers, and artists.

Rauschenberg died in 2008. He has been the subject of multiple retrospective exhibitions and has work in the collections of major museums throughout the world.

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

1. What did Robert Rauschenberg study prior to becoming an artist?  
**He studied pharmacology.**

2. What were Rauschenberg's *Combines* made from?  
**Found objects like used boxes, tires, and clocks**

**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.** If you were to become an artist, what materials would you use to make your art? Why?  
**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Samuel "Sam" Taliaferro Rayburn. Then, answer questions about it.

### Samuel "Sam" Taliaferro Rayburn 1882–1961

As a young man, Sam Rayburn audaciously declared that he would study law, enter politics, and one day serve in the United States Congress.

He went on to spend forty-nine years in the U.S. House of Representatives, including a record seventeen years as House Speaker. Known affectionately as "Mr. Sam," Rayburn helped pass some of the twentieth century's most important legislation, working, as he put it, "with, not under," eight Presidents.

Born in Tennessee in 1882, Rayburn moved with his family to Fannin County, Texas, when he was five. As a young man, he served three terms in the state legislature and studied enough law at The University of Texas to pass the bar.

Rayburn was elected to Congress in 1912. As chair of the powerful Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, he advanced legislation creating the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Communications Commission. During the Depression, he sponsored key measures of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and was instrumental in ensuring the nation's preparedness for World War II.

A master of the political process, Rayburn was widely respected for his integrity and fairness. He also served as a mentor to many congressmen, including Lyndon B. Johnson. Shortly before his death in 1961, Rayburn said of his career: "I am one man in public life who is satisfied, who has achieved every ambition of his youth."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Samuel "Sam" Taliaferro Rayburn. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How long did Sam Rayburn serve in the United States Congress, and for which position does he hold the record for longest tenure?

**He spent forty-nine years in the U.S. House of Representatives, including a record seventeen years as House Speaker.**

2. What are four of Rayburn's legislative accomplishments?

**Rayburn chaired the powerful Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, advanced legislation creating the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Communications Commission, sponsored key measures of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, and was instrumental in ensuring the nation's preparedness for World War II.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Rayburn described his time in Congress as working "with, not under" eight presidents. How does this statement summarize our system of government?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Charles Franklin "Frank" Reaugh. Then, answer questions about it.

### Charles Franklin "Frank" Reaugh 1860–1945

The series of pastels titled *Twenty-four Hours with the Herd* depicts an iconic Texas scene: the cattle drive. Artist Frank Reaugh completed the series in the 1930s, but they portray an earlier chapter of Texas history, when fences had not yet crossed the landscape, and men and cattle moved freely on the open range.

Born in Illinois in 1860, Reaugh moved to Texas when he was fifteen. His family grew cotton, but young Reaugh was interested in art and nature, and divided his time between the family farm and studying art in St. Louis and Paris.

Reaugh soon gained a reputation for his luminous and impressionistic landscapes. Several were exhibited at the World's Fairs of 1893 and 1904. Another favorite subject was the Texas longhorn, which he studied carefully while following the herds along the Red, Wichita, and Brazos Rivers. His most famous works feature this emblem of the state in its natural habitat, the Texas plains.

Known as the "dean of Texas artists," Reaugh was also a popular art instructor. He founded the Dallas School of Fine Arts and often led students on sketching trips throughout his beloved Southwest.

A master of color, shading, and detail, Frank Reaugh recorded what he called "the broad opalescent prairies" as he saw them more than a century ago. His works are on view at the Texas Capitol and museums around the state.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Charles Franklin "Frank" Reaugh. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What subjects is Frank Reaugh most commonly known for portraying?

**Landscapes and longhorns**

2. How did Reaugh spend his time as a young person?

**He divided his time between the family farm and studying art in St. Louis and Paris.**

**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.** Reaugh's art depicted a time from his youth, before fences sectioned off the frontier. Which groups of people are typically absent from the romanticized art of the cattle drive era?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Julia Scott Reed. Then, answer questions about it.

### Julia Scott Reed 1917–2004

Pioneering Black journalist Julia Scott Reed was born in Dallas in 1917. After graduating from high school, she studied journalism and communications at a local business school.

In 1950, Reed became a Texas correspondent for *The Call*, a Kansas City African American newspaper. A year later, she joined the *Dallas Express*, the area's dominant Black newspaper at the time. She worked her way through the ranks at the Express to become its city editor.

Reed's coverage of historic events such as the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education case and the 1964 trial of Jack Ruby brought her recognition and respect as a journalist. During this time, Reed also provided commentary for Fort Worth-based radio station KNOK.

In 1967, Reed was hired by the *Dallas Morning News*, becoming the first African American employed full-time at the newspaper. Her column "The Open Line" gave a much-needed voice to Dallas's Black community. At a time of widespread racial tension, Reed's writing helped promote dialogue between the city's white and Black communities.

Reed was also active in the civil rights movement, Democratic politics, and community service.

In 1978, Reed suffered a major stroke, which prematurely ended her journalism career. She died in 2004. In 2018, the *Morning News* named a space after Reed in their new building to recognize her trailblazing career and record of public service.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Julia Scott Reed. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Name two events that Julia Scott Reed covered when she worked for the Dallas Express.  
**The *Brown v. Board of Education* case (1954) and the 1964 Jack Ruby trial**

2. What did Reed's writing for the Dallas Morning News do?  
**Her column provided a voice for the Black community and helped promote dialogue between Black and white citizens.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** How do you think Reed's work as a journalist could have supported her work in the civil rights movement?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode. Most likely answer: She could use her journalistic work to provide evidence for the issues that she advocated for in her civil rights work.**



## 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 Tomás Rivera. Then, answer questions about it.

### Tomás Rivera 1935–1984

Tomás Rivera's career as a writer and educator was shaped by the struggles of his family.

Rivera was born in 1935. His parents were farm laborers who followed the annual harvests from Texas to the Midwest. Rivera traveled and worked with his family throughout his education. Ultimately, he earned a PhD and became a university professor.

Rivera's 1971 novel . . . *y no se lo tragó la tierra*—or, in English translation, . . . *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*—portrays the terrible conditions faced by Mexican American farm workers. Rivera later explained, "I wanted to document, somehow, the strength of those people that I had known . . . when the migrant worker was living without any kind of protection."

The novel received the first Premio Quinto Sol, an annual literary award given to the best work of fiction by a Chicano author.

As an educator, Rivera saw that he could advance the interests of first-generation college students more effectively as an administrator than as a professor. After serving on The University of Texas campuses in San Antonio and El Paso, he became the first Mexican American chancellor in the University of California system.

Rivera died in 1984. His achievements are commemorated at many sites in Texas, including in his hometown of Crystal City, where an elementary school was named in his honor.

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

1. What experiences shaped Tomás Rivera's career as a writer and educator?

**The struggles of his family: His parents were farm laborers who followed the annual harvests from Texas to the Midwest.**

2. What did Rivera try to show with his most critically acclaimed work, . . . *y no se lo tragó la tierra*?

**Rivera later explained, "I wanted to document, somehow, the strength of those people that I had known . . . when the migrant worker was living without any kind of protection."**

**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.** Rivera believed that he could more effectively advance the interests of first-generation college students as an administrator rather than as a professor. Why do you think he said this? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**





## 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 Cleto Rodríguez. Then, answer questions about it.

### Cleto Rodríguez 1923–1990

His portrait hangs in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes. A section of U.S. Route 90 in San Antonio is named for him, as is the school he attended as a boy. For his heroism in World War II, he received the nation's highest military honor.

San Marcos native Cleto Rodríguez was born in 1923. By the age of nine, he had lost both his parents and was raised in San Antonio by relatives.

Rodríguez joined the Army in 1944, and was soon serving as a rifleman with the 148th Infantry in the Philippines. In 1945, during the fierce month-long Battle for Manila, Rodríguez and a fellow soldier played key roles in regaining a heavily defended railroad station from the Japanese. Both men were awarded the Medal of Honor for their “gallant determination” and “heroic courage in the face of tremendous odds.”

Rodríguez was the fifth Mexican American ever to earn this honor—and one of fourteen Texans who earned it during World War II.

After the war, Rodríguez returned to San Antonio. He served briefly in the Air Force, and then rejoined the Army, retiring in 1970 as a master sergeant. He became an advocate for veterans and minorities after his military service.

Rodríguez died on Pearl Harbor Day in 1990 and is buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

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

1. How did Cleto Rodríguez earn the Congressional Medal of Honor?

**In 1945, during the fierce month-long Battle for Manila, Rodríguez and a fellow soldier played key roles in regaining a heavily defended railroad station from the Japanese. Both men were awarded the Medal of Honor for their “gallant determination” and “heroic courage in the face of tremendous odds.”**

2. Which causes did Rodríguez champion after his retirement from the military?

**He became an advocate for veterans and minorities after his military service.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Rodríguez's boyhood school is named after him because of his service to country and community. If you could rename your school after a historical figure, who would it be and why?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 James Earl Rudder. Then, answer questions about it.

### James Earl Rudder 1910–1970

The German army considered Pointe du Hoc a perfect spot for defending the coast of France from Allied forces during World War II. From atop its hundred-foot cliffs, German guns could reach both Omaha Beach and Utah Beach. The Germans thought their position was secure. And it was—until June 1944, when Texan James Earl Rudder and his Second Ranger Battalion began to climb those cliffs.

Rudder graduated from Texas A&M University in 1932 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Reserves. He taught high school and college and coached football until he was called to active duty in 1941. He trained U.S. Army Rangers for one of D-Day's most dangerous operations: taking Pointe du Hoc.

During the assault, over half of Rudder's men were killed or wounded, and Rudder himself was shot in the leg. But the high ground was seized, and the German guns were silenced.

After the war, Rudder continued to take on tough challenges. As president of Texas A&M University, he supported optional membership in the Corps of Cadets and helped open the university to women, despite great opposition.

When he died in 1970, Rudder was celebrated for his courageous leadership in both war and peace. An inscription on Rudder Tower, located on the A&M campus, remembers Rudder's "uncommon ability to inspire men and lead them to exceptional achievement."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on James Earl Rudder. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What were the results of James Earl Rudder's actions on D-Day?

**The high ground was seized, and the German guns were silenced.**

2. How did Rudder contribute to Texas A&M University after World War II?

**As president of Texas A&M University, he supported optional membership in the Corps of Cadets and helped open the university to women, despite great opposition.**

**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.** Of the two major changes that Rudder made at Texas A&M, which do you think had a larger impact on the school? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 José Francisco Ruiz. Then, answer questions about it.

### José Francisco Ruiz 1783–1840

Colonel José Francisco Ruiz was one of two native Texan signatories of the Texas Declaration of Independence. A former Mexican Army officer and an expert on native Texas tribes, he fought against Spain during the Mexican War of Independence. Then, in the 1830s, Ruiz risked everything again to liberate Texas.

Born in San Antonio in 1783, Ruiz began his career as an educator and public litigator in 1803. During the Mexican War for Independence, he became a rebel against Spain by joining the Gutiérrez-Magee Expedition. When the rebels were later defeated at the Battle of Medina in 1813, Ruiz fled to Louisiana, where he became a trader with the Comanches and the Lipans of northern Texas.

Ruiz returned to Texas after Mexican independence in 1821, where he served the Mexican government as an envoy to the Apaches and Comanches. In 1830, he became a military commander of a fort on the Brazos River, one of the posts intended to contain illegal immigration from the United States.

Ruiz retired from the army in 1833 and devoted himself to private business before joining the cause of Texas independence. He signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836, and, after Santa Anna's defeat, became San Antonio's senator in the first Texas Congress. He died in 1840, having guided Texas from colonial possession to independent republic.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on José Francisco Ruiz. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What role did José Francisco Ruiz serve in the Mexican government?  
**He was an envoy from the Mexican government to the Apaches and Comanches.**
2. What is noteworthy about Ruiz as a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence?  
**He was one of only two native Texans to sign it.**

**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.** What seems to connect Ruiz's fighting for independence against Spain and again against Mexico?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode. Most likely answer: He fought against an oppressive government—first a colonizer and then a dictator.**



## 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 Winifred Sanford. Then, answer questions about it.

### Winifred Sanford 1890–1983

In the 1920s, writer Winifred Sanford's stories of the Texas oil boom captured the anxieties of a state on the verge of modernization.

Born in Minnesota, Sanford moved to Wichita Falls in 1920, as her husband sought his fortune in the new oilfields of North Texas.

At first, Sanford found the small town stifling. But she soon realized the oil boom made Texas more complex than it had first seemed. Swift change made for great stories.

Sanford published her first short story in 1925. She hit her stride with "Windfall," a 1928 story about a woman experiencing the discovery of oil on her family farm. In her fiction, Sanford measured what Texans gained and lost in such moments—in contrast to the frontier nostalgia that then dominated the state's literature. H. L. Mencken of *The American Mercury* took note and became Sanford's mentor.

Sanford's stories appeared in some of the most popular magazines of the day. Literary tastemaker Edward O'Brien included four of her works in *The Best Short Stories of 1926*.

Later in life, Sanford moved away from writing. She died in 1983, her work forgotten outside a handful of scholars. In 1988, however, those scholars' efforts led to the first published collection of Sanford's stories, which has helped to restore her place in the Texas literary canon.

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

1. Why did Winifred Sanford and her husband move to Texas?

**Her husband sought his fortune in the new oilfields of North Texas.**

2. How were Sanford's short stories different from the "frontier nostalgia" that was popular in Texas literature in the 1920s?

**In her fiction, Sanford measured what Texans gained and lost in moments such as the discovery of oil on the family farm—in contrast to the frontier nostalgia that then dominated the state's literature.**

**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.** What do you think the statement "swift change made for great stories" means?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Dorothy Scarborough. Then, answer questions about it.

### Dorothy Scarborough 1878–1935

In 1925, an anonymous novel called *The Wind* spotlighted the West Texas town of Sweetwater. *The Wind* told the tragic tale of Letty Mason, a Virginian who moves to Sweetwater during the drought-stricken 1880s. By book's end, Letty has committed murder and suicide—driven in part by the relentless West Texas wind.

Reviewers praised the book for depicting the West with “cold truth.” However, many Texas readers attacked *The Wind*—and argued that only a Yankee could have written it.

*The Wind's* author was revealed to be Dorothy Scarborough, a native Texan. She spent several childhood years in Sweetwater, but lived most of her career in New York, yet all seven of her novels were set in Texas.

By the time Lillian Gish starred in the 1928 film version of *The Wind*, the story included a happy ending—and Sweetwater's Chamber of Commerce invited Scarborough back for a visit.

Dorothy Scarborough was also a respected folklorist. She called herself a “song catcher.” She believed radio threatened the survival of folk songs, and she traveled around the Appalachian Mountains recording centuries-old ballads with a hand-powered Dictaphone. Scarborough believed these folk songs told stories about a community's values and its collective history.

Novelist, folklorist, a catcher of songs, Dorothy Scarborough took inspiration from America's regional cultures and, in doing so, preserved the creative expressions of ordinary people from times past.

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

1. How is Texas portrayed in Dorothy Scarborough's famous work *The Wind*?

**Drought-stricken and windy**

2. Why did Scarborough feel it was important to preserve folk songs?

**Scarborough believed these folk songs told stories about a community's values and its collective 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. **Taking a Position.** Why do you think Scarborough used the expression “song catcher” for her work as a folklorist?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Emmett Jay Scott. Then, answer questions about it.

### Emmett Jay Scott 1873–1957

Houston's Emmett J. Scott served as the right-hand man for one of the most influential figures in African American history. Along the way, he developed enormous influence himself in education, business, journalism, and politics.

Born in 1873, Scott was the founder of the *Houston Freeman*, the city's first Black newspaper. In 1897, he invited Booker T. Washington to visit Houston. Scott so impressed the famed educator that Washington hired him as his private secretary.

Scott joined Washington at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Working under Washington, Scott soon directed a far-flung network of Black organizations and newspapers, wielding national political influence.

In 1909, President Taft appointed Scott to the American Commission to Liberia, a high-profile diplomatic position. During World War I, Scott advised the War Department, combating racial discrimination in the armed forces while increasing African American enlistment. Following the war, Scott left Tuskegee to become the business manager of Howard University in Washington, DC.

Scott was also a successful businessman who championed his mentor's vision of Black advancement through entrepreneurship, investing in the earliest Black-owned record labels and insurance companies. During World War II, Scott combined business acumen with public service as a manager of one of the nation's leading shipbuilding firms.

Scott lived to see the modern civil rights movement emerge before he passed in 1957.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Emmett Jay Scott. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What did Emmett Jay Scott do prior to working for Booker T. Washington?  
**He founded the Houston Freeman, Houston's first Black newspaper.**
2. What role did Scott play during World War I?  
**He advised the War Department on discrimination in the army and worked to increase African American enlistment.**

**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 "acumen" mean?  
**"Acumen" means making good judgments and quick decisions. Scott's business acumen meant that he made sound decisions that led to success in his role at the shipbuilding firm.**



## 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 Zachary Scott. Then, answer questions about it.

### Zachary Scott 1914–1965

According to one of his fans, actor and Texas native Zachary Scott had an air of sophistication that made him look like he had “been born in a dinner jacket.” Best known for portraying scoundrels, playboys, and villains, Scott was one of Texas’s most recognizable faces during Hollywood’s golden age.

Born in Austin in 1914, Scott studied acting at The University of Texas. He worked in regional theaters in England before landing on the stage in New York. In 1944, when Hollywood discovered his aristocratic good looks, he embarked upon a motion picture career that included more than thirty films.

Scott’s range as an actor was impressive. In 1945, the year he portrayed Joan Crawford’s suave but shady husband in *Mildred Pierce*, he also appeared as a poor Texas sharecropper in director Jean Renoir’s masterpiece *The Southerner*.

But Scott chafed under the Hollywood studio system, which typecast him as a villain. He ultimately moved away from film roles and returned to the stage, enjoying considerable success.

In 1965, Scott was diagnosed with cancer and returned to his family’s home in Austin, where he died later that year.

Today, ZACH Theater, a thriving community theatre named for Zachary Scott, stands in downtown Austin, cultivating Texas’s next generation of dramatic talent. Scott’s memory is kept alive in Hollywood as well, where his name graces a star on the renowned Walk of Fame.

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

1. What type of roles is Texan actor Zachary Scott best known for playing?  
**He is best known for portraying scoundrels, playboys, and villains.**
2. Why did Scott decide to leave Hollywood and return to stage acting?  
**Scott chafed under the Hollywood studio system, which typecast him as a villain.**

**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.** What is typecasting? Why might Scott have been unhappy with the roles he was assigned in this system?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer:** Typecasting is when an actor is cast in the same role in various films to the point where they are associated with that type of role and don’t play anything else. Scott was typecast in roles with negative connotations.



## 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 Juan Seguín. Then, answer questions about it.

### Juan Seguín 1806–1890

Texas revolutionary Juan Seguín was a politician, a soldier, a businessman, even a suspected traitor. Yet he was also a hero and an honored veteran. The contradictions of Seguín's life illustrate how complicated loyalty was during the struggle for Texas independence—especially for Tejano citizens of the Republic.

Seguín was born in San Antonio in 1806. As a young man, he formed a militia of Texians to resist President Santa Anna's oppressive rule. Seguín was a dedicated and able soldier, and he joined fellow Texians at the Alamo. He escaped death only because Colonel William Travis sent him out of the fort to seek reinforcements.

After the war, Seguín served in the Texas Senate and as mayor of San Antonio, but his unwavering defense of Tejano rights earned him political enemies. Seguín also had business dealings in Mexico that aroused suspicion, and he was labeled a traitor. Fearing for his safety, he fled to Mexico in 1842.

Santa Anna remembered Seguín's role in the Texas revolution and as punishment, compelled him to join the Mexican army during the U.S.-Mexico War. Seguín was finally able to return to Texas in 1848.

After his death in 1890, Seguín was buried in the town that bears his name. A statue was erected as a tribute, showing belated respect for a founding father who once said, Texas treated me like "a foreigner in my native land."

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

1. How did Juan Seguín survive the Battle of the Alamo?

**Colonel William Travis sent him out of the fort to seek reinforcements.**

2. What were two of the leadership roles Seguín held after the Texas Revolution?

**Seguín served in the Texas Senate and as mayor of San Antonio.**

**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.** Why might Seguín's defense of Tejano rights earn him political enemies in a post-revolution Republic of Texas?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: Some people in the new Republic wished to take away the rights of Tejanos and would see Seguín as working against their desires.**





## 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 Juan Jose Maria Erasmo de Jesus Seguín. Then, answer questions about it.

### Juan Jose Maria Erasmo de Jesus Seguín 1782–1857

Erasmo Seguín lived through one of the most tumultuous periods of Texas history.

Born in 1782, Seguín entered public office in 1807 as postmaster of San Antonio, a position he held nearly continuously until 1835. During those years, Seguín established himself as a leading player in the political scene and held several prominent positions before and after Mexico gained independence from Spain, including as alcalde of San Antonio.

Believing that Anglo American settlers would help the region prosper, Seguín advocated in the Mexican congress for the colonization of Texas. He was instrumental in helping Stephen F. Austin carry out an empresario contract and became close friends with the Austin family. Seguín was the only delegate from Texas at the Mexican congress that drafted the Constitution of 1824, where he fought for the interests of San Antonio and the Anglo settlers in the area.

Removed from office at the outset of the Texas Revolution, Seguín retreated to Casa Blanca, his ranch near present-day Floresville. During the Revolution, Casa Blanca became a source of provisions for the Texas army. Though Seguín was later reimbursed for the loss of stock and supplies, the ranch was significantly depleted, and Texan rustlers continued to steal his cattle into the forties. He spent his later years trying to restore his estate to its former glory and died there in 1857.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Juan Jose Maria Erasmo de Jesus Seguín. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What role did Juan Jose Maria Erasmo de Jesus Seguín serve for decades in San Antonio?  
**He served as postmaster.**
2. Who did Seguín help secure an empresario contract?  
**Stephen F. Austin**

**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.** If you were Seguín, how would you feel about your treatment by Texans both during and after the Revolution?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Adela Sloss-Vento. Then, answer questions about it.

### Adela Sloss-Vento 1901–1998

Born in 1901 in Karnes City, Texas, and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, Adela Sloss-Vento was a pioneer of Mexican American civil rights.

She advocated for justice as a writer, publishing articles and essays in both Spanish- and English- language newspapers across the state, including *La Prensa* of San Antonio, *La Verdad* of Corpus Christi, and the *McAllen Monitor*. She championed the rights of immigrants, women, and workers and called for implementation of the Good Neighbor Policy with Mexico.

Sloss-Vento also joined Alonso S. Perales of the League of United Latin American Citizens—or LULAC—in the struggle for equality. She never joined LULAC herself but advocated on its behalf as well as for Ladies LULAC, separate chapters for women. Her collaboration with Perales was key to the Mexican American civil rights movement, and she lent crucial support to LULAC's first class- action case to end school segregation in Texas. Sloss-Vento later wrote an important book chronicling Perales's accomplishments as a civil rights activist.

In the sixties, Sloss-Vento backed the political agenda of the Chicano Movement, which empowered people of Mexican descent to celebrate their culture while combatting systemic racism. She continued to provide counsel and support in the struggle for justice through her final years.

Sloss-Vento died in 1998. Her enduring legacy was her formidable ability to engage others with her vision for a better Texas.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Adela Sloss-Vento. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What did Adela Sloss-Vento call for in her writing?

**She supported the rights of immigrants, women, and workers as well as the Good Neighbor Policy with Mexico.**

2. What movement did she become involved with in the 1960s?

**The Chicano Movement**

**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.** Sloss-Vento became a mentor to other young activists in the Mexican American civil rights movement. Do you think the support of a mentor is important? Explain your answer.

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Cyrus Rowlett Smith. Then, answer questions about it.

### Cyrus Rowlett Smith 1899–1990

"C. R." Smith, pioneering president of American Airlines, when asked what drew him to aviation, responded, "Vigorous people . . . whose vision doesn't stop at the horizon." He was essentially describing himself.

Cyrus Rowlett Smith was born in the small Texas town of Minerva. After his father abandoned the family, nine-year-old Cyrus began working a series of odd jobs. Despite never graduating high school, he studied business at The University of Texas. Working as an accountant for a power company, Smith quickly climbed the corporate ladder.

In 1934, when Smith became president of American Airlines, the fledgling company was getting by delivering air mail, and postal revenues were capped by government regulations. Smith knew that to increase earnings he had to think bigger. He persuaded aircraft designer Donald Douglas to expand his DC-2 model to accommodate twenty- one passengers—enough to make passenger-only travel profitable. The resulting DC-3 gave American Airlines the freedom to operate without relying on mail pay, and other airlines soon followed suit.

In 1942, Smith left the company to serve in the Army and helped organize its worldwide air transport system. He returned a highly decorated major general and resumed control of American. In 1968, he left again to become President Johnson's commerce secretary.

Named to the Aviation Hall of Fame, Smith died in 1990. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

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

1. What change did Cyrus Rowlett Smith make to American Airlines that dramatically changed the company?

**He persuaded an aircraft designer to make a plane that would make passenger-only travel profitable. His company would no longer have to rely on only delivering mail.**

2. Why did Smith leave American Airlines in 1942?

**He left to serve in the Army in World War II, organizing the army's worldwide air transport system.**

**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.** Passenger airlines revolutionized the way we travel. What do you think will be the next big revolution in travel? Explain your answer.

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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.  
**She was the vocational coordinator for Fort Worth public schools and kitchen manager at Camp Waldemar.**
2. What product established Smith's national reputation?  
**Lucille's All-Purpose Hot Roll Mix**

**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?  
**"Lucrative" means producing a good profit. Smith is a great example of creating a successful business in an area in which she excelled.**



## 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 Belle Starr. Then, answer questions about it.

### Belle Starr 1848–1889

When Belle Starr was shot to death in 1889, a newspaper declared her to be “a most desperate woman.” Her killer was never identified. Many suspected her son, whom Belle had recently beaten for mistreating her horse. Her unsolved murder was a fitting end to a life that was a whirlwind of violence, crime, and legend.

She was born Myra Maybelle Shirley in 1848 and at the age of sixteen moved to the North Texas town of Scyene. She kept company with notorious criminals, including Jesse James. She married three times to three different outlaws and even spent time in prison for stealing horses.

Though she was ruthless to her enemies, she had a great capacity to make friends, and she even mingled with the Dallas elite during the brief periods when her gunfights and thievery gave way to respectable living.

But it was only after her death, at age forty, that her legend grew. The *National Police Gazette* invented new stories about her, and her embellished reputation continued to inspire popular novels and western films long after her death.

Stories circulated depicting Belle as an elegantly dressed woman riding atop a black mare, in a feathered black sombrero, toting a Colt .45 pistol that she called “my baby.”

Instead of being remembered as a desperate criminal, she became a romantic symbol of the disappearing American West, known as “Belle Starr, the Bandit Queen.”

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

1. How was the reality of Belle Starr’s life different from the legend that grew after her death?  
**Instead of being remembered as a desperate criminal, she became a romantic symbol of the disappearing American West, known as “Belle Starr, the Bandit Queen.”**
2. How did Starr become an inspiration for popular novels and western films?  
**The *National Police Gazette* invented new stories about her.**

**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.** After her death, Starr’s reputation was embellished as her life story was dramatized and used as inspiration in popular novels and films. Why do you think that we tend to exaggerate stories about people from the past?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 Heman Marion Sweatt. Then, answer questions about it.

### Heman Marion Sweatt 1912–1982

When Heman Sweatt, a Black postal employee, applied to The University of Texas School of Law in 1946, officials rejected him because of his race. But Sweatt was not deterred. In fact, he had already volunteered to serve as the NAACP's plaintiff in a suit to desegregate the law school. His qualifications included not only a college degree but also the courage and determination to endure four years of trials and the inevitable threats and vandalism.

Sweatt's upbringing prepared him for the challenge. His father, a charter member of Houston's NAACP branch, had set an example of social activism for his children. Heman encountered another powerful influence at Wiley College, where the charismatic English professor Melvin Tolson exhorted students to challenge discrimination. Sweatt's attorney, Thurgood Marshall, also inspired confidence, for he had already argued civil rights cases before the Supreme Court on behalf of the NAACP.

To keep Sweatt and other Black students out of The University of Texas, state officials built what would become Texas Southern University, but the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Sweatt v. Painter* opened UT's law school to African Americans and established an important precedent for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Sweatt attended but did not finish law school. He later earned a master's degree in Atlanta, where he had a successful career with the Urban League.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Heman Marion Sweatt. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Name the three people the episode includes as inspiring Heman Marion Sweatt in his fight against segregated law schools.

**His father, Melvin Tolson, and Thurgood Marshall**

2. The victory in Sweatt's case led to what other important decision related to school desegregation?

***Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Based on what you have learned in class, how did Sweatt win his case?

**Sweatt proved that the "equal" portion of "separate but equal" was not being upheld. Though state officials had built a law school for Black students, it did not offer the same level of education or the same access to networks of people that The University of Texas at Austin had.**



## 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 Allie Victoria Tennant. Then, answer questions about it.

### Allie Victoria Tennant 1898?–1971

Visitors entering the Hall of State in Dallas's Fair Park pass under a gilded bronze sculpture of an archer with a drawn bow preparing to fire. The piece, titled *Tejas Warrior*, is a masterpiece of line, muscle, and potential energy—and is the best-known work of one of the least-known major Texas artists.

Born in the late 1890s, sculptor Allie Victoria Tennant grew up in Dallas. After studying art in New York and Europe, she returned to her hometown and joined a community of artists inspired by the history and culture of the Southwest. Her *Tejas Warrior* was commissioned for the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition. In a career that lasted through the 1960s, Tennant gained national recognition for her work while advancing Texas artistic culture.

In the early forties, she served as the first president of the Texas Sculptors Group. She helped establish the Women's Building at Fair Park to highlight women's cultural contributions. Tennant also taught at the Art Institute of Dallas and advanced civic institutions such as the Dallas Museum of Art. As a committed member of the Dallas Garden Club, Tennant championed several civic beautification projects, reflecting her dedication to public art.

Tennant died in 1971. Her legacy includes not only her own expressive works but also institutions that continue to support Texas art and artists.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Allie Victoria Tennant. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What is Allie Victoria Tennant's best known sculpture?  
***Tejas Warrior*, which is found in front of the Hall of State at Dallas's Fair Park**
2. Besides her work as an artist, what else did Tennant do to support Dallas's artistic community?  
**She was president of the Texas Sculptors Group, helped establish the Women's Building at Fair Park, taught at the Art Institute of Dallas, and advanced civic institutions and beautification projects around the city.**

**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.** Tennant was dedicated to public art, which makes art accessible to people by putting it in easily accessible places. Where would you put a work of public art in your own community? Why?  
**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**



## 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 Melvin B. Tolson. Then, answer questions about it.

**Melvin B. Tolson**  
**1898–1966**

Poet and educator Melvin B. Tolson inspired generations of students to stand up for equal rights and dignity.

Tolson was born in Missouri in 1900 and grew up in the Midwest. In 1924 he began teaching at the historically Black Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. His students included James Farmer, founder of the Congress of Racial Equality, and Heman Sweatt, who challenged the segregated University of Texas Law School.

A dedicated mentor, Tolson coached Wiley's debate team through an impressive ten-year winning streak. In 1935, they defeated the national champions from the University of Southern California. Under Jim Crow segregation, African Americans did not often meet elite white schools in competition, so the team's success symbolized progress and equality. The film *The Great Debaters* depicted this David-and-Goliath story with Tolson portrayed by Denzel Washington.

Tolson was also a brilliant and inventive poet, drawing upon both the western tradition and the distinctive rhythm and vernacular of the blues. His masterpiece *Harlem Gallery* chronicles, as he put it, Black Americans' "New World odyssey, / from chatel to Esquire!" In 1947, the African nation of Liberia named him poet laureate.

President Lyndon B. Johnson invited Tolson to the White House in 1965 to present his latest poetry, a crowning achievement in his long and remarkable career. Tolson died the following year in Dallas.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Melvin B. Tolson. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did Melvin B. Tolson teach literature and coach debate?

**At the historically Black Wiley College in Marshall, Texas**

2. What themes and traditions did Tolson draw upon in his poetry?

**Tolson drew upon both the western tradition and the distinctive rhythm and vernacular of the blues.**

**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.** If you could choose between being a great debater and a great poet, what would you choose? How are these similar and different? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**





## 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 John Goodwin Tower. Then, answer questions about it.

### John Goodwin Tower 1925–1991

Texas became a two-party state in 1961, when conservative Republican John Tower was elected to the U.S. Senate. He was the first Republican senator from Texas since Reconstruction.

Born in 1925, Tower grew up in East Texas, the son of a Methodist minister. He served in the Navy during World War II and then earned a master's degree in political science from Southern Methodist University. Tower was teaching at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls when he decided to enter politics. He ran for the U.S. Senate in 1960, losing to Lyndon B. Johnson. But Tower won the seat the following spring, in a special election called after Johnson assumed the vice presidency.

During four senate terms, Tower was a dominant voice for conservative Texas Republicans. He chaired the powerful Armed Services Committee and promoted the energy and banking industries. Intelligent and sometimes prickly, Tower was a master at moving legislation through Congress. He was a political mentor to Senator John McCain, and to many Texas Republicans including future President George H. W. Bush.

Tower retired from the Senate in 1985. Four years later, President Bush nominated him for Secretary of Defense, but the Senate rejected the nomination. Tower was deeply wounded by the defeat.

In 1991, Tower died tragically, along with his daughter Marian, in a commuter plane crash in Georgia.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on John Goodwin Tower. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What was noteworthy about John Tower's election to the United States Senate in 1961?  
**Tower won the seat in a special election called after Lyndon B. Johnson assumed the vice presidency.**
2. Who did Tower mentor during his time as a U.S. senator?  
**He was a political mentor to Senator John McCain and to many Texas Republicans including future President George H. W. Bush.**

**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.** During Tower's four terms in the Senate, he served as the chair of the Armed Services Committee and promoted the energy and banking industries. If you were a United States senator, what causes would you promote? Why?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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 William Barret Travis. Then, answer questions about it.

### William Barret Travis 1809–1836

William Barret Travis was only twenty-six years old when he died defending the Alamo. He came from Alabama just five years before, in 1831, leaving behind a failed career and marriage. Texas, a land he came to love, gave Travis a new life—and an early death.

Travis clashed with authorities in Anahuac shortly after arriving in Texas, feuding over Mexico's antislavery laws. He spent two months in prison and earned a reputation as a troublemaker, but went on to build a successful law practice. Then, in June 1835, as tension mounted between colonists and Mexican officials, Travis returned to Anahuac. With twenty volunteers and a small cannon, he forced the local customs officer to leave town. That was Travis's first experience with military action just as the Texas Revolution was unfolding.

Six months later, in February 1836, newly commissioned Lt. Colonel Travis assumed joint command of the Alamo with James Bowie. As Mexican forces gathered, Travis sent dispatches to fellow Texians pleading for reinforcements. "If my countrymen do not rally to my relief," he declared, "I am determined to perish in defense of this place, and my bones shall reproach my country for her neglect."

His words were prophetic: little help came, but outrage over the slaughter of Travis and other Alamo defenders inspired a rush of Texian volunteers who ultimately defeated Mexican General Santa Anna at San Jacinto.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on William Barret Travis. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Who did William Barret Travis share joint command of the Alamo with?

**James Bowie**

2. What can you infer about Travis's views on slavery given that he "clashed with authorities" over Mexico's antislavery laws?

**He supported slavery.**

**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.** What do you think Travis meant when he said "my bones shall reproach my country for her neglect"?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 King Wallis Vidor. Then, answer questions about it.

### King Wallis Vidor 1894–1982

Born in Galveston in 1894, King Wallis Vidor grew up with the movies. Over the course of his career, he directed both silent and sound films and worked with many of Hollywood's top stars, from Charlie Chaplin to Audrey Hepburn.

Vidor began his career in film as a teenager, working as a projectionist in a Galveston theater.

His first hit came in 1925, with *The Big Parade*, the highest grossing silent film of all time. Shot partly in Texas, the film follows Jim Apperson, an idle young man who joins the army to fight in World War I. In France, Jim experiences the horrors of combat and loses a leg in battle. Vidor's film emphasizes the human costs of war.

Later masterpieces in Vidor's career include *The Crowd*, *Stella Dallas*, *Duel in the Sun*, *War and Peace*, and an adaptation of Ayn Rand's controversial novel *The Fountainhead* starring Gary Cooper and Patricia Neal.

Often drawn to social themes, Vidor hoped his films would "help humanity to free itself from the shackles of fear and suffering that have so long bound it with iron chains."

A sculpture of the Tin Man from *The Wizard of Oz* stands in the front yard of Vidor's childhood home in Galveston. Vidor directed the film's Kansas scenes as a favor to MGM. The fanciful sculpture is a memorial to this Texan's remarkable life in American film.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on King Wallis Vidor. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did King Wallis Vidor get his start in the film industry?

**Vidor began his career in film as a teenager, working as a projectionist in a Galveston theater.**

2. What theme did Vidor's first hit film, *The Big Parade*, attempt to address?

**Vidor's film emphasizes the human costs of war.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Vidor is quoted as saying that he hoped his films would "help humanity to free itself from the shackles of fear and suffering that have so long bound it with iron chains." Based on his films described in the episode, what do you think his quote means?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 Walter Prescott Webb. Then, answer questions about it.

### Walter Prescott Webb 1888–1963

Walter Prescott Webb remains one of Texas's most significant and influential scholars.

Born in 1888, Webb grew up in Stephens County. In 1904, an Atlanta literary magazine published a letter written by a young Webb asking how he could become a writer. Remarkably, a New Yorker named William E. Hinds read the letter and became Webb's benefactor, sending him books, money, and encouragement. With Hinds's support, Webb entered The University of Texas in 1909, where he eventually received a doctorate.

Webb taught at his alma mater throughout his career. He served as director of the Texas State Historical Association and spearheaded the creation of *The Handbook of Texas*, the definitive encyclopedia of the state's history. In 1958, he served as president of the American Historical Association.

As a scholar, Webb made his name with *The Great Plains*, his 1931 study that shows how the distinctive climate and geography of the American West shaped the region's history. In 1950, a survey of historians identified the book as the single most important work in U.S. history written since the turn of the century.

Webb died in 1963. In a memorial, J. Frank Dobie described him as "the most powerful thinker I have ever known." "Most historians deal with the past as the past," said Dobie. "Webb dealt with it as a guide to the future."

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Walter Prescott Webb. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. How did Walter Prescott Webb become known to William E. Hinds, his eventual mentor and benefactor?

**An Atlanta literary magazine published a letter written by a young Webb asking how he could become a writer.**

2. Name three ways Webb contributed to the study of history during his career.

**He served as director of the Texas State Historical Association and spearheaded the creation of *The Handbook of Texas*. In 1958, he served as president of the American Historical Association. His book has been identified by historians as the single most important work in U.S. history written since the turn of the century.**

**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.** Webb was described by J. Frank Dobie as a historian who dealt with the study of history "...as a guide to the future." Do you think studying our past can help guide our future?

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**



## 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?  
**She began as executive secretary, then worked as director of statewide branches, and later served as a national field worker.**
2. What specific issues does the episode mention that White fought for?  
**Voting rights, desegregation, and equal pay**

**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?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**

**Most likely answer: She spoke directly and without apology. She would also have had to face potentially dangerous situations.**



## 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 James Robert (Bob) Wills. Then, answer questions about it.

### James Robert (Bob) Wills 1905–1975

Known as the “King of Western Swing,” Bob Wills was born near Kosse, Texas, in 1905. He grew up hearing the blues sung in cotton fields and country tunes played on his father’s fiddle. Wills spent his lifetime adapting new musical forms rooted in both traditions.

During the Depression, radio beamed live music programs across the country, building huge audiences. Wills’s fame began when he and his band—the Light Crust Doughboys—were heard on radio stations throughout Texas and Oklahoma.

Fellow Doughboy Milton Brown eventually left the group to form what has been called the first Western Swing band. But it was Wills’s relentless schedule of radio and live shows that spread Western Swing’s popularity.

By 1934, Wills had formed a new band, the Texas Playboys. To the traditional fiddle and guitar, he added steel guitar, brass, reeds, and drums, producing a bigger, jazzier sound. The Playboys’ “New San Antonio Rose” became a hit, catapulting them to national fame.

World War II interrupted Wills’s career, but he soon rebuilt his band in California, drawing big crowds and even appearing in Hollywood films.

Wills continued recording into the 1960s. At his death in 1975, he was acknowledged as a pioneer of a uniquely American musical genre—one that fused conventional string band sounds with the brass of big band, the swing of jazz, and elements of polka, bluegrass, and folk.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on James Robert (Bob) Wills. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. When did James Robert (Bob) Wills’s fame begin?

**During the Depression, Wills and his band the Light Crust Doughboys were heard on radio stations across Texas and Oklahoma.**

2. How does the episode describe the music that Wills pioneered?

**His music “fused conventional string band sounds with the brass of big band, the swing of jazz, and elements of polka, bluegrass, and folk.”**

**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.** If you were going to name a band that played Western Swing, what name would you choose? Why?

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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?

**The Texas Women's History Project**

2. Name three of Winegarten's accomplishments in the field of women's history.

**Students should answer from the following: collected biographical information on 600 women, cataloged thousands of artifacts, collected thousands of oral histories, published twenty books, was elected a fellow of the Texas State Historical Association**

**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."

**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**



## 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 William Dale (Bill) Wittliff. Then, answer questions about it.

### William Dale (Bill) Wittliff 1940–2019

The acclaimed screenwriter, publisher, and photographer Bill Wittliff was born in 1940 in the small south Texas town of Taft. He was raised by a single mother who worked as a local switchboard operator, a history Wittliff drew upon when writing the screenplay for the 1981 film *Raggedy Man*.

Wittliff studied journalism at The University of Texas at Austin and later founded and ran the Encino Press, which published distinctive books chronicling Texas and the Southwest.

Wittliff had a gift for telling stories on screen. He wrote screenplays for the films *The Black Stallion*, *Barbarosa*, and *Legends of the Fall*. His 1989 television adaptation of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* earned him the Writers Guild of America Award.

Wittliff collaborated with Willie Nelson on several occasions, most notably on the film adaptation of Nelson's album *Red Headed Stranger*, which Wittliff wrote, directed, and produced.

Despite his success in Hollywood, Wittliff remained a proud Texan, working from his home in Austin and nurturing a local community of writers and filmmakers.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on William Dale (Bill) Wittliff. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. For what type of writing is William Dale (Bill) Wittliff best known?

**Screenplays**

2. What does the Wittliff Collection contain?

**The literature, photography, and music of the greater Southwest**

**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.** Why are archives important to learning and teaching about history?

**Student must take a position and support it with evidence.**

**Most likely answer: Collecting and preserving the physical evidence of history helps us to better understand the details straight from the people who lived them.**





## 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 Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias. Then, answer questions about it.

### Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias 1911–1956

Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, nicknamed "Babe" for her childhood prowess on the baseball diamond, dominated women's sports from the 1930s through the '50s.

She was born in 1911 in Port Arthur, Texas, and quickly became known as not just a gifted athlete, but a fierce competitor in every arena she entered. Though best remembered for her accomplishments in golf and track and field, she also excelled in basketball, diving, roller-skating, bowling, and billiards. She even won a prize for her sewing at the 1931 Texas State Fair. Babe could type eighty-six words per minute, and was so good at gin rummy that few wanted to play against her.

The 1932 Los Angeles Olympics made Babe Didrikson a celebrity. Already a world record-holder in multiple events, she won gold medals in the javelin and hurdles and silver in the high jump. She took up golf at the age of twenty-four and quickly became the top women's player. Babe's success was no fluke. She played hard, and she practiced even harder. "I'd hit balls until my hands were bloody and sore," she recalled. "I'd have tape all over my hands, and blood all over the tape."

Babe and her husband, wrestler George Zaharias, helped found the Ladies' Professional Golf Association in 1950. But Babe's career and life were cut short by colon cancer at age forty-five. Babe Zaharias is buried in Beaumont, where a museum and annual golf tournament honor her accomplishments.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Babe Didrikson was an extremely talented athlete. In which sports did she excel?  
**Golf, track and field, basketball, diving, roller-skating, bowling, and billiards**
2. What did Didrickson contribute to the game of women's golf?  
**She helped found the Ladies' Professional Golf Association.**

**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. **Creating Connections.** Why would the nickname "Babe" be given to Mildred Didrikson for her "prowess on the baseball diamond"?  
**The nickname referenced Babe Ruth, another great baseball player.**



## 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 Adina Emilia de Zavala. Then, answer questions about it.

### Adina Emilia de Zavala 1861–1955

The second defense of the Alamo took place in 1908, when Adina De Zavala barricaded herself for three days in the long barracks, or convento, to protest plans for its destruction. Forbidden food and water, she was determined to save the Alamo compound from what she called “business greed.”

De Zavala was born in Harris County in 1861 to an Irish mother and Mexican father. Her grandfather, Lorenzo, was the first vice president of the Republic of Texas. Adina moved to San Antonio with her family in the 1880s, and taught elementary school as a young woman.

A self-described “student and jealous lover of Texas history,” De Zavala applied her considerable energies toward saving the Alamo. Her dramatic efforts became national news and focused public attention on its preservation. De Zavala also worked with the San Antonio Conservation Society and other groups to ensure the rescue of the Spanish Governor’s Palace in Military Plaza.

De Zavala was a charter member of the Texas State Historical Association and a leader in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She founded the Texas Historical and Landmarks Association, which placed numerous historic markers throughout the state.

A tireless protector of Texas history, De Zavala is now honored with a marker in the patio of the convento at the Alamo.

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

1. Why did Adina De Zavala barricade herself inside the Alamo?

**Adina De Zavala barricaded herself for three days in the long barracks, or convento, to protest plans for its destruction. Forbidden food and water, she was determined to save the Alamo compound from what she called “business greed.”**

2. Besides the Alamo, what other building did Adina de Zavala help to protect?

**The Spanish Governor’s Palace in Military Plaza**

**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.** Do you think it is important to preserve historic buildings and landmarks? Explain.

**Student must take a position and support their answer.**

## 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?  
**He served as the Republic's first vice president.**
2. Why did Lorenzo de Zavala come to oppose Santa Anna's government?  
**Santa Anna established a centralized regime suppressing Mexican Federalism.**

**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?  
**Student must take a position and support their answer with evidence from the episode.**