



Student Name:
Class Period:
Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on 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?
2. What position did Gálvez hold after serving as governor of Spanish 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. **Creating Connections.** Gálvez was declared an honorary U.S. citizen. Who else from Texas history would you honor in this way? Explain your choice.