



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 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.
2. How did Governor Hogg fight for the interests of the "common citizen"?

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.