



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 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?
2. What did Justin name her boot company after splitting from her brothers?

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?