



Student Name:  
Class Period:  
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## 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?
2. What role did Scott play during World War I?

**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?