

TEXAS HISTORY TOP TEN: Mexican Americans

The Bullock Texas State History Museum's website is filled with artifacts, oral histories, highlights from curators, and interesting stories. The Texas History Top Ten tool is perfect if you only have a short amount of time, want a broad overview, or want to find hidden gems about a particular topic. Use this lists to help expand your content knowledge while planning classroom lessons for your students, or send your students on assignment to explore the Top Ten lists on their own.

Mexican Americans

While Texas was still part of Mexico, people of Spanish descent began building built communities and culture in what is now Texas, and on lands that were still the homelands of thousands of Native American people.

- 1. [Family bible](#)**
A record of the Idar family from Laredo and later San Antonio, Texas, who were advocates for Mexican Americans
- 2. [Segregated swimming pool brochure](#)**
A brochure for a San Antonio public pool which became the subject of a Mexican American civil rights case
- 3. [Performance dress](#)**
Costume belonging to Tejana singer Lydia Mendoza, who began her singing career in San Antonio's plazas before becoming the most commercially successful Tejano singer of her time
- 4. [Texas Farm Workers Union flag](#)**
Flag carried on the 420-mile March for Human Rights from San Juan on the Texas/Mexico border, to Austin
- 5. [Strike brochure](#)**
1938 brochure about the Pecan Workers' Strike, detailing the pecan workers' crowded, harmful living conditions, the industry's child labor abuses, and police brutality
- 6. [Draft of Supreme Court opinion on civil rights](#)**
Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren's 1954 draft opinion in the case of Hernandez v. Texas that extended constitutional rights to Mexican Americans
- 7. [Commemorative gift plate](#)**
A commemorative plate from a McAllen mercantile store speaks to the long legacy of the Guerra family, who have "lived under all 6 flags of Texas." Includes a 2:30 minute video
- 8. [Bato con High School Jacket painting](#)**
A painting by a Mexican American artist explores what it meant to be Latino in America during the Chicano movement of the 1960s
- 9. [Life and Death on the Border exhibition](#)**
This past exhibition re-examines historic events in Texas during some of the worst state- sanctioned violence in the U. S. and provides a fresh perspective on a little-known story that shaped the Mexican American civil rights movement. Includes music clips
- 10. [La Reina of the San Antonio Fiesta](#)**
Story of a special lady in San Antonio who was also The Queen, La Reina de Fiesta San Antonio



Texas Farm Workers Union flag, 1977. Image courtesy Texas Farm Workers Union Collection, Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, The University of Texas at Austin



Lydia Mendoza. Image courtesy Bill McClung

Types of Resources

The Bullock Museum has a diversity of resources and voices to tell the many Stories of Texas. While using the Texas History Top Ten, explore a variety of tools:

Artifacts

Get an up-close look at the artifacts the Museum has displayed, and learn about their importance in Texas history. View the full Artifact Gallery [here](#).

Campfire Stories

Using the mosaic embedded in the Museum's floor, interact with Texans from the past gathered around a campfire to share their stories. Discover the people who shaped Texas. View the mosaic [here](#).

Special Exhibitions and Events

Explore some of the stories and artifacts from the Bullock Museum's past temporary exhibitions and special events focusing on unique aspects of Texas history. View all past special exhibitions [here](#).

Texas History Timeline

Use the interactive timeline tool to mix and match different events and stories to see how they line up in the chronology of Texas history. View the full timeline [here](#).

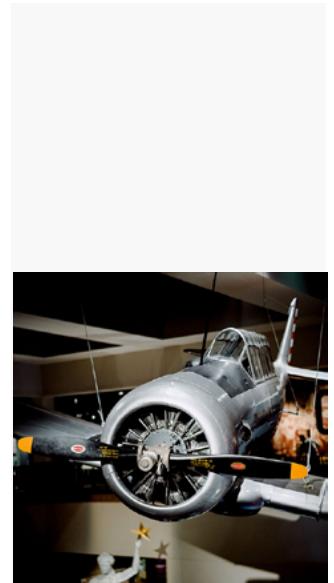
Texas Story Project

Read oral history stories submitted by diverse Texans about their connections to the past. The Texas Story Project is best for finding stories that you wouldn't find in textbooks, like family stories and Texas folklore, and are generally not written by professional historians. View the full Texas Story Project [here](#).

Assorted Resources

Watch videos or participate in an [interactive distance learning program](#).

New Top Ten lists will be added over time to round out the full scope of the Texas History curriculum, so keep returning to the [website](#) for updates. Looking for more resources on these topics beyond the Top Ten, or curious how other teachers have used what is found on these lists? [Email Education@TheStoryofTexas.com](mailto:Email_Education@TheStoryofTexas.com).



Discover the AT-6A "Texan" Airplane in the Artifact Gallery

