

Texas Voices

Three musicians shaped the sounds of Texas culture.

4.17.B “summarize the contributions of artists of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups in the development of Texas culture such as Lydia Mendoza, Chelo Silva, and Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each artist. Then write 1, 2, or 3 beside the last sentence of each paragraph that explains that artist's contribution to Texas culture: 1 for Lydia Mendoza, 2 for Chelo Silva, and 3 for Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe.

Musicians Who Added to Texas Culture

- ① Texas culture grew as people brought different languages, stories, and music to the state. Lydia Mendoza, a Mexican American musician from Houston, became a leading Tejano singer and guitarist. In 1934, she recorded “Mal Hombre.” Her songs, often sung in Spanish, shared Mexican American musical traditions with listeners in Texas and beyond. They helped Tejano music become a valued part of Texas culture.
- ② Chelo Silva, a Mexican American singer from Brownsville, performed boleros, songs that tell of love and loss. Fans called her the Queen of the Bolero. She sang in Spanish and recorded many songs. Her powerful voice helped make border music more widely known, adding the feelings and sounds of Mexican American communities to Texas culture.
- ③ Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe was an African American baritone singer from Waco. A baritone has a low male singing voice. Bledsoe performed in operas, concerts, and the musical Show Boat. He became known for singing “Ol’ Man River.” His success brought the work of a Texas Black performer to stages across the country and added to Texas’s rich music history.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Summarize Lydia Mendoza's contribution to Texas culture.

2 What kind of music did Chelo Silva perform, and how did her work add to Texas culture?

3 How did Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe contribute to Texas music history?

4 What is one way all three artists helped develop Texas culture?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one artist from the passage and write a three-sentence museum label. Name the artist and art form, describe the artist's contribution, and explain how it added to Texas culture.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each artist. Then write 1, 2, or 3 beside the last sentence of each paragraph that explains that artist's contribution to Texas culture: 1 for Lydia Mendoza, 2 for Chelo Silva, and 3 for Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize Lydia Mendoza's contribution to Texas culture.	She shared Mexican American musical traditions through her Tejano songs, often sung in Spanish, and helped make Tejano music a valued part of Texas culture.
2	What kind of music did Chelo Silva perform, and how did her work add to Texas culture?	She performed Spanish-language boleros. Her voice made border music more widely known and brought the sounds and feelings of Mexican American communities into Texas culture.
3	How did Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe contribute to Texas music history?	He performed as a baritone in operas, concerts, and Show Boat. His success brought the work of a Texas Black performer to stages across the country.
4	What is one way all three artists helped develop Texas culture?	All three used music to share the voices, traditions, and talents of different Texas communities with wider audiences.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lydia Mendoza was a Mexican American Tejano singer and guitarist from Houston. Her Spanish-language songs, including "Mal Hombre," shared Mexican American musical traditions. She added these traditions to Texas culture and helped Tejano music become valued.

Accept accurate summaries and paraphrases supported by the passage. For the museum label, accept any named artist if all three required ideas are included and the explanation of cultural contribution is accurate.