

The Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance was an African American cultural movement of the 1920s and early 1930s that was centered in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City.

The Harlem Renaissance emerged amid social and intellectual upheaval in the African American community in the early 20th century. Several factors laid the groundwork for the movement. A black middle class had developed by the turn of the century, fostered by increased education and employment opportunities following the American Civil War (1861-1865). During a phenomenon known as the Great Migration, hundreds of thousands of black Americans moved from an economically depressed rural South to industrial cities of the North to take advantage of the employment opportunities created by World War I. As more and more educated and socially conscious blacks settled in New York's neighborhood of Harlem, it developed into the political and cultural center of black America. Equally important, during the 1910s a new political agenda advocating racial equality arose in the African American community, particular in its growing middle class. Championing the agenda were black historian and sociologist W.E.B. DuBois and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which was founded in 1909 to advance the rights of blacks.

African American literature and arts had begun a steady development just before the turn of the century with the production of art, music, poetry and novels but never as much as during the Harlem Renaissance. During this time, African American literature and arts flourished. The Harlem Renaissance had a profound impact on American culture. It gave African Americans something to be proud of, to learn from, and to build upon.

Information from: <http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia>

1. Write a sentence that best describes the main idea of the above article.
2. What was the cause of the Harlem Renaissance?
3. Was this movement's effect on African Americans positive or negative? CITE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER.
4. Circle at least five words from this text that are new/unfamiliar to you. Using context clues, write their meaning in the margin.

Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance

Timeline:

- 1902 - _____ was born
- 1914 - 1918 - _____
- 1920s-1930s - H _____ Renaissance
- 1921 - Hughes publishes " _____ "
- 1926 - Hughes publishes _____, his first book of poetry
- 1929 - _____ Crash
- 1930s - G _____ D _____
- 1939 - 1945 - _____
- 1955 - 1968 - C _____ R _____ Movement
- 1967 - _____ died
- 1968 - MLK died

What is the Harlem Renaissance?

An _____ artistic movement happening in _____, NY in the _____ and _____ that celebrated black life and culture. Mostly _____, but also involved _____, theater, and _____.

Langston Hughes:

- Attended _____ University for one year
- Traveled often - wrote "Negro Speaks of Rivers" after traveling to _____
- Figure in _____ Renaissance
- Wrote about life of the _____ in that time period with a hopeful tone for the future