

African American Culture

Guide to Reading

Connection

In the previous section, you learned about the changes in cultural trends and entertainment that occurred during the 1920s. In this section, you will discover the Harlem Renaissance and find out how African Americans worked to gain more rights.

Main Idea

- The Harlem Renaissance sparked new trends in literature, music, and art and featured the work of writers such as Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston. (p. 427)
- African Americans steadily worked to win more rights. (p. 429)

Preview of Events

1922	1924	1926	1928
Antilynching bill passes in the House but not in the Senate	The Negro League holds its first world series	Langston Hughes's <i>The Weary Blues</i> published	Claude McKay's <i>Home to Harlem</i> published

Content Vocabulary

jazz, blues

Academic Vocabulary

sought, author, impact

People and Terms to Identify

Great Migration, Harlem Renaissance, Claude McKay, Langston Hughes, Cotton Club, Marcus Garvey

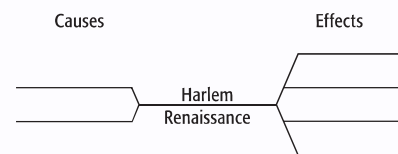
Reading Objectives

- **Describe** the Harlem Renaissance and the rediscovery of African American cultural roots.

- **Explain** the increase in African American political activism.

Reading Strategy

Organizing As you read about the African American experience in the 1920s, complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below by filling in the causes and effects of the Harlem Renaissance.



The following are the main History–Social Science Standards covered in this section.

11.5 Students analyze the major political, social, economic, technological, and cultural developments of the 1920s.

11.5.2 Analyze the international and domestic events, interests, and philosophies that prompted attacks on civil liberties, including the Palmer Raids, Marcus Garvey's "back-to-Africa" movement, the Ku Klux Klan, immigration quotas and the responses of organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Anti-Defamation League to those attacks.

11.5.6 Trace the growth and effects of radio and movies and their role in the worldwide diffusion of popular culture.

The Big Idea

People react to periods of breathtaking social and cultural change in different ways. The New York City neighborhood of Harlem became the epicenter for a flowering of African American literature, music, and art—a development known as the Harlem Renaissance. New forms of music such as jazz, blues, and ragtime developed. African American authors began writing about defiance and contempt for racism. The large population of African Americans in northern cities following the Great Migration led to large voting blocs and political gains. The NAACP worked to end segregation and discrimination. Black Nationalism, a new movement promoted by Marcus Garvey, instilled pride in black culture and hope for the future in many African Americans.