

# Title: A Historical Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance

Grade Level: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

Subject: ELA & Social Studies

Keywords: Great Migration, Renaissance, Harlem, and Contemporary



<b>Lesson Plan:</b>	The Harlem Renaissance
<b>Subject:</b>	American History
<b>Grade:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Description/ Abstract of Lesson</b>	<p>The Harlem Renaissance was a significant social and cultural movement which took place in the 1920s and 1930s following the Great Migration during which thousands of African Americans left the south and moved north and west.</p> <p>The result was the flourishing of art, music and literature that reflected the history and experience of the African American. The artistic, literary and musical contributions of Harlem Renaissance artists continue to serve as an inspiration for today's artists.</p>
<b>SS.1.A.2.1</b>	Students will understand history tells the story of people and events of other times and places.
<b>SS.2.C.2.5</b>	Students will evaluate the contributions of various African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, veterans, and women.
<b>LAFS.2.SL.2.5</b>	Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	<p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The social, cultural and political circumstances which gave rise to the Harlem Renaissance.</li><li>• They will also learn about the influences that inspired the work of the Harlem Renaissance's artists and musicians.</li><li>• Finally, students will be given several opportunities to create their own Harlem Renaissance inspired work.</li></ul>
<b>Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Digital resources</li><li>● Books, magazines and other resources made available by the school Media Center</li><li>• The Harlem Renaissance Youtube video- <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEZDCqrKDho">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEZDCqrKDho</a></li><li>●</li></ul>
<b>Duration:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1-2 class periods</li><li>● Block Scheduling (90 min.) 1 class period</li></ul>
<b>Lesson Lead In/ Opening:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upon entering the classroom, the teacher will have Jazz music from the Harlem Renaissance era playing in the background.</li><li>• Begin with a class discussion on the social, political and economic climate of America in the 1920s and 1930s.</li><li>• Ask students to compare and contrast the circumstances of African Americans and whites at this time.</li><li>• Focus on what accounted for the differences in people's experiences based on their race.</li><li>• Lastly, ask students why they think the arts are an effective means through which individuals and groups can express their history, their frustrations and their hopes for the future. Ask them to give contemporary examples.</li></ul>
<b>Activity 1:</b>	Warm up or Do Now: The teacher will read "Harlem" by Walter Dean Myers to students and ask them to visualize the story as you are reading. As you read, you may show students a sideshow of Christopher Myers' illustrations of the poem.

	Give students a copy of the poem and ask them to underline all of the places and locations mentioned in it. Have students read the poem a third and final time and highlight or circle all of the people mentioned. Ask students why they think Harlem became a social and cultural center for African Americans in the 1920s and 1930s.
<b>Activity 2:</b>	Have students write a found poem in which they alternate phrases or lines from Harlem Renaissance poems with original lines of their own.
<b>Activity 3:</b>	Setup the classroom like a poetry lounge during the Harlem Renaissance era and host a poetry slam, during which students will read their found poems aloud and dress up like a character from the Harlem Renaissance era.
<b>Extended Activity 4:</b>	Have the students write a brief essay comparing and contrasting music from the Harlem Renaissance to Contemporary music.
<b>Higher Order Thinking Questions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does the music of today differ from that of the Harlem Renaissance era?</li> <li>2. Are there any similarities in the sounds of the music from the Harlem Renaissance and the music today?</li> <li>3. Do you believe that Harlem was the perfect location for this culture to develop? Explain your answer.</li> <li>4. Why were the arts (music, song, poetry, and art) a perfection form of expression for African Americans during this time period?</li> </ol>
<b>Suggested Books:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Harlem's Little Blackbird by Renee Watson</li> <li>b. The Entrance Place of Wonders by Daphne Muse</li> <li>c. Harlem Renaissance Party by Faith Ringgold</li> </ol>
<b>Web Resources</b>	<p>The Harlem Renaissance Youtube video- <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEZDCqrKDho">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEZDCqrKDho</a></p> <p>Jim Crow and the Migration North- <a href="https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-harlem-renaissance-novels-and-poetry-from-the-jazz-age.html">https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-harlem-renaissance-novels-and-poetry-from-the-jazz-age.html</a></p>

