

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Ideas of the Harlem Renaissance

Directions: Read about the Harlem Renaissance, then complete the graphic organizer below.

The Harlem Renaissance was a major artistic and cultural movement in the 1920s and 1930s. It began in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. During the Harlem Renaissance, many African American writers and artists produced important pieces of literature, music, drama, and art.

An important idea behind the Harlem Renaissance was that African Americans refused to be considered less important than white Americans. They wanted to celebrate and share their African American culture. They wanted to push for civil and political rights.

During the Harlem Renaissance, the American poet Langston Hughes wrote an important poem called "Harlem." The poem famously begins with the line, "What happens to a dream deferred?" The poem is about the African American struggle for equality and freedom in the United States.

Music was also important during the Harlem Renaissance. Jazz musicians like Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and Billie Holiday rose to fame during this time. The music, books, plays, and thoughts of the Harlem Renaissance still inspire people to this day.



Josephine Baker was a singer, dancer, and actress who emerged during the Harlem Renaissance.

Fill in the graphic organizer with the main idea of the text. Explain how the details you chose support your main idea.

<p>Supporting Detail #1</p> <p>The author says that artists wanted to share their culture in paragraph 2. This detail supports the idea that artists wanted to share information.</p>	<p>Student answers will vary but may include:</p>	<p>Supporting Detail #2</p> <p>The text says the time period produced famous jazz artists, like Billie Holiday, and writers like Langston Hughes. This detail supports the idea that there were many famous artists.</p>
<p>The author mentions that the Langston Hughes poem is famous. The poem describes the wish for African American people to have freedoms and to be treated equally. This detail supports the idea of sharing their African American experience and pushing for rights.</p> <p>Supporting Detail #3</p>	<p>Main Idea</p> <p>During the Harlem Renaissance, many famous artists created pieces of writing and art to tell about the African American experience and push for rights.</p>	<p>The title of the text is "Ideas of the Harlem Renaissance," so the main idea will have to be about that period.</p> <p>Supporting Detail #4</p>