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.



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

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.

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

