 The Roaring 20’s: The Harlem Renaissance

**What was the Harlem Renaissance?**

-An influential and historically creative period that redefined African-American culture

-Began shortly after World War I, 1920’s

-Harlem, New York City – “the heart and soul of African American renaissance”

-Consisted of writers, artists, and intellectuals from the south

-Known as the “New Negro Movement”

**African American’s Role in the Harlem Renaissance**

-People that came from Caribbean and Africa began to migrate to Harlem, NYC

-Blossoming of African American culture; mostly in creative arts, literature, music, theater, and visual arts.

-Most influential movement in African American literary history.

**Literature**

-**Langston Hughes** – famous writer/poet during Harlem Renaissance

-First published in “*The Crisis*” in 1921; signature poem “*The Negro Speaks of Rivers*.”

-His life and work was a huge influence on black culture during Harlem Renaissance.



**Music**

-Harlem Renaissance is popular for the music it produced.

-Best big band Jazz musicians in the world.

-Music created art that reflected the African American community

-Famous jazz and blues singers included Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong

**Impact of the Harlem Renaissance**

-Brought African Americans together and glorified the traditions of black culture

-African American artists and musicians gained attention of whites and promoted ideas like racial integration

-Put African Americans in a happier place