



# THE GREAT MIGRATION



When you see the pencil appear, fill in the information in red on your info-graphic guided notes page.



# THE GREAT MIGRATION



In 1910, three out of every four black Americans lived on farms and nine out of ten lived in the South. During the Great War (World War I), Northern factories saw a labor shortage as men enlisted and were drafted to the army. Suddenly businesses were willing to hire employees they had once rejected.

Throughout the South, African Americans answered the demand for labor. Besides trying to take advantage of the economic opportunities of jobs in Northern cities, many African Americans hoped to escape the bigotry, poverty, and racial violence of the South.

# THE GREAT MIGRATION

## the Great miGRation

Between 1910 and 1930, about 2 million African Americans left the South to settle in Northern cities.

Push Factors:

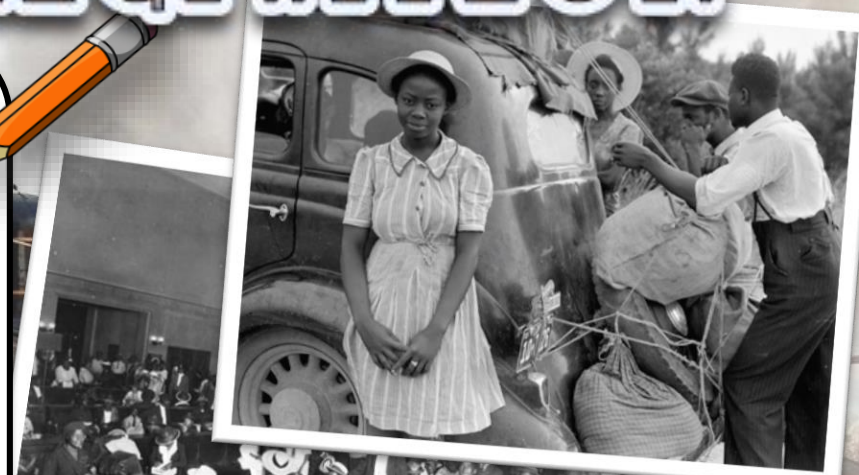
Segregation laws, sharecropping, poverty, racism and violence in the South.

Pull Factors:

Factory jobs in industrial cities. Hope for more tolerance in the the North.

Reality:

Economic opportunities in the steel, automobile, meat, mining, and weapons industries increased for black Americans because of WWI. Between 1910 and 1930, nearly 2 million Southern blacks moved to Northern cities. This era is referred to as the Great Migration.



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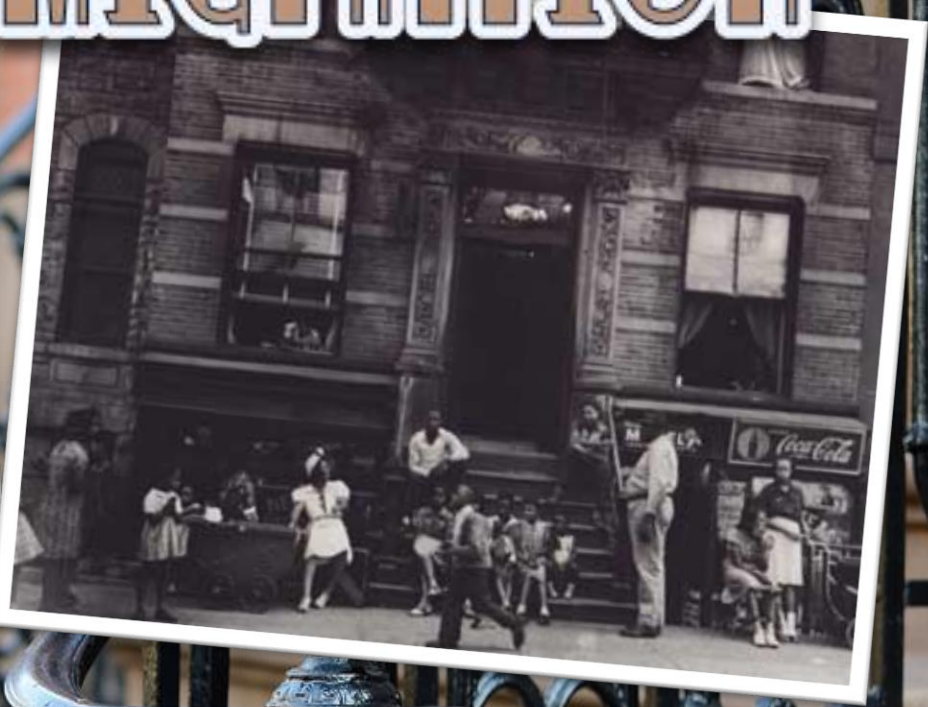
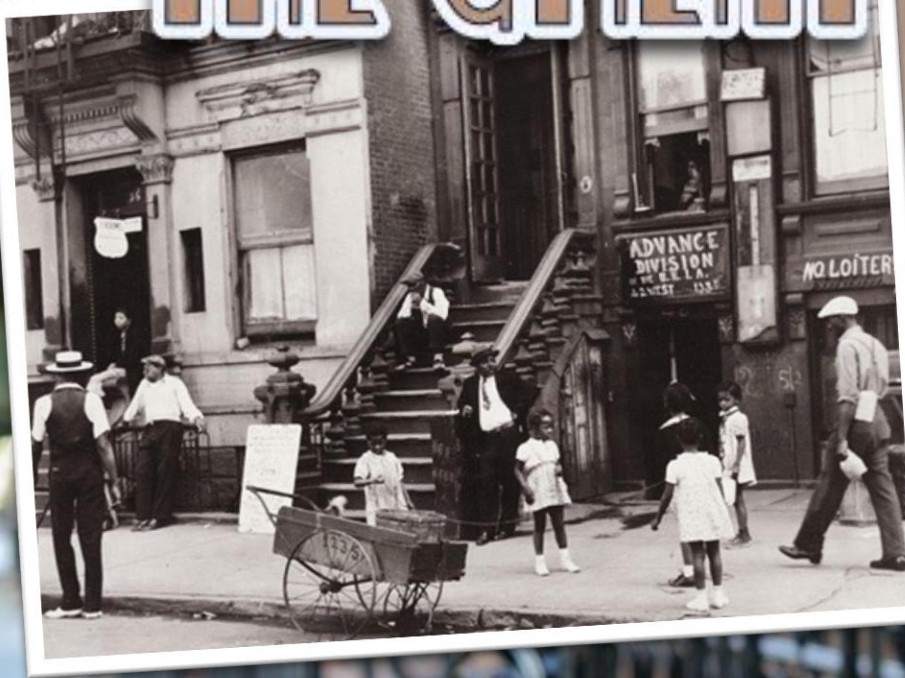
Reality:

A more secret racism existed in the North. Race riots took place. Not welcome in white neighborhoods.



Even though Northern states didn't have Jim Crow laws that were found in the South, African Americans still found discrimination and segregation when they migrated to Northern cities. This era saw a series of race riots as tensions between white and black Americans increased. The worst of the race riots was in Chicago in 1919. Some blacks later wrote they had only traded the open racism of the rural South for a more secret racism of Northern cities.

# THE GREAT MIGRATION




Due to the struggle to find welcoming neighborhoods in many Northern cities, African Americans created cities-within-cities during the 1920's. The largest was Harlem, in New York City's upper Manhattan. In 1905, this had been an all-white neighborhood. By the 1920's, over 200,000 African Americans lived in the Harlem neighborhood.

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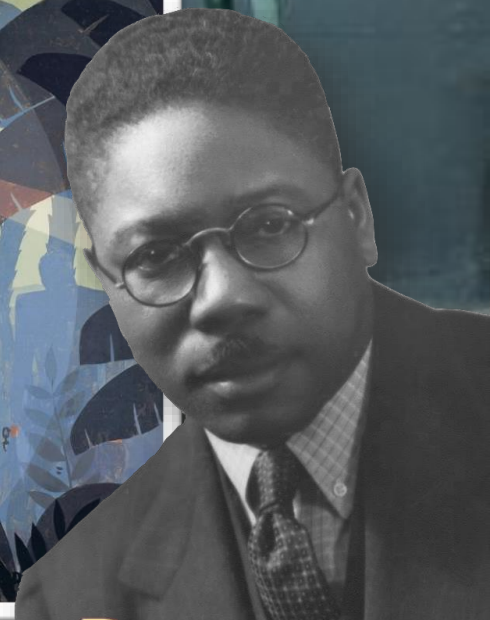
With so many black Americans migrating to New York City and settling in Harlem, the neighborhood became the center of the Harlem Renaissance. This was a period of creativity among African American writers, artists, and musicians in the 1920's and 1930's.

The artists of the Harlem Renaissance explored what it meant to be black in America, reflecting roots from Africa and the history of slavery and a longing for equality.



Home to over 200,000 African Americans, Harlem, in New York City, was the largest all-black neighborhood. It became the unofficial capital of Black America and a center of an arts and culture explosion for African Americans.

## the Harlem Renaissance



**AARON DOUGLAS**

# THE GREAT MIGRATION



Langston Hughes  
Harlem's most famous African-American writer during the Harlem Renaissance.

Langston Hughes was one of the leading writers of the Harlem Renaissance. He published his first book of poetry when he was 24 years old. Along with 25 books of poetry, Hughes also wrote plays and stories. His works expressed the feelings African-Americans had of hope and the struggle for equality.

Another important Harlem Renaissance writer was James Weldon Johnson who wrote about racial discrimination. Johnson also wrote the lyrics to the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" which became the anthem for the NAACP.



# THE GREAT MIGRATION



The 1920's became known as the Jazz Age. This new, uniquely American style of music combined musical styles of Africa, Europe, and the United States. New Orleans, Louisiana was the birthplace of Jazz. Jazz spread with the Great Migration and made its way into the nightclubs of Harlem. New Orleans was also the birthplace of one of Jazz's most famous musicians, Louis Armstrong. With more Americans tuning into the radio, Jazz soon filled living rooms across the country.

Jazz developed in New Orleans, Louisiana, and moved north during the Great Migration. Harlem became a showcase for Jazz.

## the Jazz age



Louis Armstrong  
Jazz musician from New Orleans combined African rhythms, blues, and ragtime.

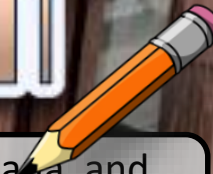




# THE GREAT MIGRATION




COTTON CLUB



Jazz developed in New Orleans, Louisiana, and moved north during the Great Migration. Harlem became a showcase for Jazz. Famous nightclub the Cotton Club featured black jazz and blues musicians but only allowed white customers.

## the Jazz age



The Cotton Club, Harlem's best known nightclub, became the center of Jazz music in the 1920's when renown musicians like Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, and Fletcher Henderson began performing there. The Cotton Club attracted hundreds of customers every night- ironically, like many other nightspots, the Cotton Club featured black performers but banned black customers.

# Optional Video Resources

- Lift Every Voice and Sing (With Lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya7Bn7kPkLo>

- Biography: Louis Armstrong

<http://www.biography.com/people/louis-armstrong-9188912>

- Biography: Langston Hughes

<http://www.biography.com/people/langston-hughes-9346313>

- Harlem Renaissance (PBS clips)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3ozfYC9CZE>

- Up South: African-American Migration in the Era of the Great War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--8N42vDDTM>