

UNIT 7: POLITICAL CHANGE

Lesson type: **Reading**
Text: The Harlem Renaissance
Source: Far Ahead 1ère

LEARNING CONTEXT

The English Club of Lycée Moderne of Port Bouet has invited the Ambassador of the United States of America in Cote d'Ivoire to give a talk about the African-American cultural heritage. In order to get prepared, your teacher you read the text 'The Harlem Heritage' and take notes.

LESSON CONTENT

VOCABULARY.

a. **Stereotyped** views = preconceived ideas that have no scientific foundation
b. **ashamed** = feel sorry for an act.
c. **Civic activities** = activities related to one's rights as a citizen
d. **To seek**= To look for
e. **despise**= hate.
f. **Labour union** = An association of a group of workers to defend their rights
g. **Civil right movemen**t: Manifestations related to people's rights
h. **Achieve**: accomplish, realize, obtain

Reading activity: Read the text "The Harlem Renaissance" and choose the best options to complete each statement.

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Harlem is in New York. It was here, in the 1920s and 1930s, that African American culture enjoyed its 'renaissance'. The writers, artists, actors and musicians who took part in this rebirth wanted to break free from the stereotyped views of their own culture. They wanted African Americans to be proud of, and not ashamed of, their own culture.

From 1861-1865 there was a Civil War in I the United States. The war finally brought an end to slavery. After that some African Americans were given the right to own land, to vote and to take part in civic activities, but these rights were later taken away from them again. And soon, although slavery had been abolished, many African Americans were forced into virtual slavery again, working on plantations and mines. While they lived in a 'democratic' and free country, many of them were also persecuted. Life in the South was very hard. Many African Americans started to move from poor, rural areas in the South to bigger, less racist urban areas in the North. In cities like New York, African Americans came into contact with many well-educated young African and Caribbean people who were also seeking better lives. They started to develop a new pride in being 'African' and Harlem became the symbolic capital of a new literary and artistic movement called the Harlem Renaissance.
Black intellectuals met in Harlem or went to live there. They experimented with exciting, new forms of music, art and literature. Harlem became a popular and fashionable nightlife destination. Writers such as Langston Hughes and WEB Du Bois inspired people to question and demand their

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rights. Artists like the painter Lois Mailou Jones and the sculptor Augusta Savage proved that black women could be talented and creative artists. Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong made jazz and African American music popular and acceptable all over the world. African Americans began to look with new eyes at their African heritage which had for so long been despised by both white and black people.

While the Harlem Renaissance was mainly a cultural movement, it was also closely linked the civil rights movement. Writers and artists contributed to magazines and newspapers published by organisations like the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which was a black labour union. And through these movements black people in the United States eventually achieved freedom.

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1. The Harlem Renaissance occurred during….
A. the 1860s and 1870s.
B. the 1920s and 1930s.
C. the American Civil war
D. the Caribbean war

2. Before the Harlem Renaissance, many African-Americans were……of their own culture and heritage.
A. not proud
B. proud
C. slaves
D. not free

3. Many African-Americans moved …….to find better lives.
A. from the northern states to the southern states of the US.
B. to the Carribean countries.
C. from the cities to the country.
D. from the southern states to the northern states of the US.

4. The phrase 'were forced into virtual slavery' means……
A. were sold as slaves.
B. decided to become slaves
C. went to another country as slaves
D. were made to work and live like slaves

5. Who made Jazz popular all over the world?
A. Langston Hughes
B. WEB Du Bois
C. Augusta Savage
D. Louis Armstrong

6. During the Harlem Renaissance, African-Americans…..
A. became interested in African culture again.
B. rejected their african cultture completely
C. copied the arts of the Carribeans
D. became interested in politics

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COMMUNICATION TASK

The English Club of Lycée Moderne of Port Bouet has invited the Ambassador of the United States of America in Cote d'Ivoire to give a talk about the African-American cultural heritage. In order to get prepared, your teacher you read the text 'The Harlem Heritage' and take notes.

-Define what "The Harlem Renaissance" means.

-State the main cause of this movement

-State the main aspects of this movement

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