HARLEM RENAISSANCE & GREAT DEPRESSION

NAME__________________________________________

PERIOD____________________
Harlem Renaissance and Art in the 1920s

US History/ Name: ________________

"During the 1920s, African Americans set new goals for themselves as they moved north to the nation’s cities. Their migration was an expression of their changing attitude toward themselves—an attitude perhaps best captured in a phrase first used around this time, ‘Black is beautiful.’ Between 1910 and 1920, in a movement known as the Great Migration, hundreds of thousands of African Americans had uprooted themselves from their homes in the South and moved north to the big cities in search of jobs. By the end of the decade, 5.2 million of the nation’s 12 million African Americans—over 40 percent—lived in cities. However, Northern cities in general had not welcomed the massive influx of African Americans. Tensions had escalated in the years prior to 1920, culminating, in the summer of 1919, in approximately 25 urban race riots.

Founded in 1909, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) urged African Americans to protest racial violence. W. E. B. Du Bois, a founding member of the NAACP, led a parade of 10,000 African-American men in New York to protest such violence. Du Bois also used the NAACP’s magazine, The Crisis, as a platform for leading a struggle for civil rights. Under the leadership of James Weldon Johnson—poet, lawyer, and NAACP executive secretary—the organization fought for legislation to protect African-American rights. It made anti-lynching laws one of its main priorities. In 1919, three anti-lynching bills were introduced in Congress, although none was passed. The NAACP continued its campaign through anti-lynching organizations that had been established in 1892 by Ida B. Wells. Gradually, the number of lynchings dropped. The NAACP represented the new, more militant voice of African Americans.

Many African Americans who migrated north moved to Harlem, a neighborhood on the Upper West Side of New York’s Manhattan Island. In the 1920s, Harlem became the world’s largest black urban community. Like many other urban neighborhoods, Harlem suffered from overcrowding, unemployment, and poverty. But its problems in the 1920s were eclipsed by a flowering of creativity called the Harlem Renaissance, a literary and artistic movement celebrating African-American culture. Above all, the Harlem Renaissance was a literary movement led by well-educated, middle-class African Americans who expressed a new pride in the African-American experience. They celebrated their heritage and wrote with defiance and poignancy about the trials of being black in a white world." ~ The Americans

1. When did Harlem become the “Race Capitol of the World,” as it was referred to by one black periodical?
(1) before World War I
(2) as a result of the Great Migration into the postwar years
(3) after the great crash of 1929
(4) following the Civil War

2. Who graduated from both Fisk University and Harvard, earned a doctorate in history, studied under Max Weber in Germany, and wrote Souls of Black Folk, among other accomplishments?
(1) W. E. B. Du Bois
(2) William Monroe Trotter
(3) John Hope
(4) George Forbes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women in the 1920s:</th>
<th>Youth and the Lost Generation:</th>
<th>The Harlem Renaissance:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- New household appliances reduced housework, and greater numbers of women went to college</td>
<td>1- Young adults were responsible for zany fads like flagpole sitting and marathon dancing</td>
<td>1- The 1920s are often referred to as the Jazz Age, reflecting the importance of African-American music</td>
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<td>2- Some women gained a new economic independence</td>
<td>2- A new group of writers, known as the Lost Generation, rejected the desire for material wealth</td>
<td>2- African Americans, who had begun migrating to Northern cities during World War I, continued to do so in the 1920s</td>
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<td>3- Women began to smoke and drink in public</td>
<td>3- Writers such as Sinclair Lewis in <em>Main Street</em> and <em>Babbitt</em>, ridiculed the narrowness and hypocrisy of American life</td>
<td>3- The center of African-American life in the 1920s was Harlem in New York City</td>
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<td>4- Women rejected restrictive fashions for shorter hair and skirts above the knees</td>
<td>4- F. Scott Fitzgerald in <em>The Great Gatsby</em> hinted that the search for purely material success often led to tragedy</td>
<td>4- An awakening of African-American culture in these years became known as the Harlem Renaissance</td>
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<td>5- Sexual behavior became more open</td>
<td></td>
<td>5- Poets and writers like Langston Hughes and Alain Locke expressed a new pride in their heritage</td>
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<td>6- Flappers wore short dresses and danced the Charleston</td>
<td></td>
<td>6- Marcus Garvey, stressing racial unity through self-help, encouraged African Americans to set up their own shops and businesses</td>
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~ The Key to Understanding U.S. History and Government

**Questions:**

1. What reduced housework in the 1920s?

2. What did more American women do in the 1920s?

3. What had some American women gained in the 1920s?

4. What did some American women begin to do in the 1920s?
5- Do you remember what Amendment gave women the right to vote?

6- What did some American women begin to reject?

7- Who were the flappers?

8- What were young people responsible for in the 1920s?

9- What did the writers of the Lost Generation reject?

10- The “Lost Generation” refers to young men who came of age during World War I. Why did World War I lead some young men to be disillusioned with Western civilization?

11- Identify several important writers during this time period.

12- Why was the decade of the 1920s known as the Jazz Age?

13- What had many African Americans done during World War I?

14- Why do you think many African Americans joined this northern migration?

15- Why was Harlem important in the 1920s?

16- What was the Harlem Renaissance?

17- Identify several significant poets and writers of the Harlem Renaissance:

18- Who was Marcus Garvey and what did he believe?

19- Marcus Garvey planned a Back-to-Africa Movement, in which African Americans would return to Africa. Why do you think Marcus Garvey believed that African Americans should return to Africa?

Primary Source: I, Too, Sing America by Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I’ll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen,”
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed –

I, too, am America.

Multiple-Choice Questions:

1. The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's was a period when African Americans
(1) left the United States in large numbers to settle in Nigeria
(2) created noteworthy works of art and literature
(3) migrated to the West in search of land and jobs
(4) used civil disobedience to fight segregation in the Armed Forces

2. The 1920's are sometimes called the “Roaring Twenties” because
(1) foreign trade prospered after World War I
(2) the United States assumed a leadership role in world affairs
(3) political reforms made government more democratic
(4) widespread social and economic change occurred

3. Which generalization most accurately describes the literary works of Langston Hughes, Sinclair Lewis, and John Steinbeck?
(1) Politics and art seldom mix well.
(2) The best literature concerns the lives of the wealthy.
(3) Literature often reflects the times in which it is created.
(4) Traditional American themes are the most popular

4. After World War I, which factor was the major cause of the migration of many African Americans to the North?
(1) the start of the Harlem Renaissance
(2) increased job opportunities in Northern cities
(3) laws passed in Northern States to end racial discrimination
(4) Federal Government job-training programs

5. The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s can best be described as
(1) an organization created to help promote African-American businesses
(2) a movement that sought to draw people back to the inner cities
(3) a relief program to provide jobs for minority workers
(4) a period of great achievement by African-American writers, artists, and performers

6. The works of Duke Ellington and Langston Hughes reflected the
(1) expanding role of women in the 1920s
(2) achievements of the Harlem Renaissance
(3) architectural innovations of the 1930s
(4) influence of southern European immigrant groups
One Way Ticket

I am fed up
With Jim Crow laws,
People who are cruel
And afraid,
Who lynch and run,
Who are scared of me
And me of them.
I pick up my life
And take it away
On a one-way ticket
Gone Up North
Gone Out West
Gone!
~ Langston Hughes, 1926

The author states that he has “Gone” because
1. jobs were available in northern industries
2. there was no racial prejudice in the West
3. farmland was more available in the North
4. racial discrimination drove him away

Analyze the following images:

What does this image reveal about the Harlem Renaissance?
CAUSES

- Wealth is unequally distributed among the population
- Many people go into debt on installment plans
- Old and decaying industrial base makes U. S. industry less competitive
- Industry and agriculture overproduce
- Government pursues unsuccessful economic policies
- Stock market crash leads to financial panic

EFFECTS

- People suffer widespread unemployment, hunger, poverty, and homelessness
- Industrial and farm production falls
- World economic crisis develops
- Democrats win victory in 1932
- Roosevelt initiates the New Deal
The Causes of the Great Depression

US History

Do Now:
“Economies historically pass through good and bad periods that regularly repeat themselves. These up-and-down periods of business activity are referred to as the business cycle. The bad times are called depressions – characterized by business failures and high unemployment. The Great Depression was the worst depression in our nation’s history.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>The Causes of the Great Depression</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overproduction:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The 1920s witnessed a rapid economic expansion, as manufacturers made and sold new products like cars, radios, and refrigerators.</td>
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<td>• Many consumers lacked the money to buy these goods.</td>
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<td>• Manufacturers were soon producing more goods than they could sell.</td>
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<td><strong>Uneven Distribution of Income:</strong></td>
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<td>• Even in the 1920s, not all groups shared in the national prosperity.</td>
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<td>• Many African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and industrial workers already faced hard times.</td>
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<td>• Farmers suffered when crop prices dropped sharply, and many went bankrupt.</td>
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<td><strong>Speculation:</strong></td>
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<td>• In the 1920s, as stocks soared in value, many people bought stocks hoping to “get rich quick.”</td>
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<td>• This drove stock prices even higher.</td>
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<td>• Many people were buying stocks on margin – paying only a small percentage of a stock’s value and promising to pay the rest later, when they sold the stock.</td>
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<td>• However, if the stock’s price fell, then buyers often did not have the money to cover their losses.</td>
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<td><strong>Shaky Banking:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The government failed to effectively regulate either the banking system or the stock market.</td>
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<td>• The vast over-extension of credit made the entire economy extremely vulnerable.</td>
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<td><strong>Restricted International Trade:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• High U.S. tariffs protected American markets but made it hard to for producers to sell abroad, since other countries retaliated by setting up high tariffs of their own.</td>
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<td><strong>The Stock Market Crash:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• On October 29, 1929, the stock market crashed; stock prices reached all-time lows.</td>
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<td>• Corporations could no longer raise funds.</td>
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<td>• People who lost money in the stock market could not repay their loans, leading to bank failures; thousands of people lost their life savings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The demand for goods decreased.</td>
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<td>• Factories closed; workers lost jobs.</td>
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</table>

1- What do economies experience?

2- Define an economic depression.
3- What was the Great Depression?

4- Why did overproduction occur in the 1920s?

5- What groups did not share in the national prosperity in the 1920s?

6- Why did many farmers suffer?

7- Why did stock prices soar in the 1920s?

8- Define speculation.

9- What is buying on margin?

10- What happened if a stock’s price fell, particularly if the investor had bought the stock on margin?

11- Can banks go bankrupt? Explain your answer.

12- What did the government fail to regulate in the 1920s?

13- Define laissez-faire. How was government failure to regulate an example of it?

14- Define tariff.

15- How did U.S. tariffs surprisingly hurt American business owners?

16- What happened on October 29, 1929?

17- What were corporations unable to do when the stock market crashed in 1929?

18- What could people who lost money in the stock market not do?

19- What happened to demand after the stock market crashed?

20- As consumers demanded fewer goods, what were business owners forced to do?

21- Why did rising unemployment rates make the depression worse?

22- What can unemployed workers not do?

23- At the start of the Great Depression, there was no “safety net.” What “safety net” exists today?

24- Herbert Hoover was President at the start of the Depression. He believed in laissez-faire and “rugged individualism” – how did these beliefs affect his actions? _______
1. A significant cause of the Great Depression of the 1930’s was that
(1) some banking policies were unsound and had led to the overexpansion of credit
(2) a decrease in protective tariffs had opened American business to competition from abroad
(3) a wave of violent strikes had paralyzed the major industries
(4) consumer goods were relatively inexpensive

2. Speaker A: "The business of America is business, and we would be wise to remember that."
Speaker B: "Government ownership of business is superior to private enterprise."
Speaker C: "Strict government regulation of business practices is a means to insure the public good."
Speaker D: "Only through personal effort can wealth and success be achieved."
Which speaker best expresses the main idea of rugged individualism?
(1) Speaker A
(2) Speaker B
(3) Speaker C
(4) Speaker D

3. An important factor contributing to the start of the Great Depression in the United States was the
(1) increase in military spending
(2) failure to maintain the gold standard
(3) reduction of tariff rates
(4) uneven distribution of wealth

4. Which situation was a basic cause of the Great Depression?
(1) continued increases in wages for workers
(2) excessive profits for farmers
(3) overregulation of the stock market
(4) overproduction of consumer goods

5. During the Great Depression, expressions such as Hoovervilles and Hoover blankets showed that President Hoover
(1) was seen as a role model
(2) used the military to aid the unemployed
(3) was blamed for the suffering of the poor
(4) supported relief and public housing for the needy

6. Which economic factor was a major cause of the Great Depression?
(1) purchase of stocks on credit
(2) increases in taxes on business
(3) reduction of tariffs on imports
(4) failure to produce enough consumer goods

7. President Herbert Hoover’s response to the Great Depression was often criticized because it
(1) wasted money on new social programs
(2) caused widespread rioting and looting in major cities
(3) raised taxes on businesses and the wealthy
(4) failed to provide direct relief for the neediest persons
**Reading: The Dust Bowl**

"The Dust Bowl of the 1930s lasted about a decade. Its primary area of impact was on the southern Plains. The northern Plains were not so badly affected, but nonetheless, the drought, windblown dust and agricultural decline were no strangers to the north. In fact the agricultural devastation helped to lengthen the Depression whose effects were felt worldwide. The movement of people on the Plains was also profound.

As John Steinbeck wrote in his 1939 novel *The Grapes of Wrath*: ‘And then the dispossessed were drawn west- from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico; from Nevada and Arkansas, families, tribes, dusted out, tractor'd out. Car-loads, caravans, homeless and hungry; twenty thousand and fifty thousand and a hundred thousand and two hundred thousand. They streamed over the mountains, hungry and restless — restless as ants, scurrying to find work to do — to lift, to push, to pull, to pick, to cut — anything, any burden to bear, for food. The kids are hungry. We got no place to live. Like ants scurrying for work, for food, and most of all for land.’

Poor agricultural practices and years of sustained drought caused the Dust Bowl. Plains grasslands had been deeply plowed and planted to wheat. During the years when there was adequate rainfall, the land produced bountiful crops. But as the droughts of the early 1930s deepened, the farmers kept plowing and planting and nothing would grow. The ground cover that held the soil in place was gone. The Plains winds whipped across the fields raising billowing clouds of dust to the skies. The skies could darken for days, and even the most well sealed homes could have a thick layer of dust on furniture. In some places the dust would drift like snow, covering farmsteads.” ~ illinois.edu

**Questions:**

1- The Dust Bowl experiences of the Oklahoma farmers during the Great Depression demonstrated the
   (1) effect of geography on people’s lives
   (2) success of government farm subsidies
   (3) limitation of civil liberties during times of crisis
   (4) result of the Indian Removal Act

2- In the 1930s, one factor that accounted for the westward migration of farmers from the Great Plains was
   (1) high farm prices
   (2) new technologies
   (3) the Dust Bowl
   (4) the baby boom

3- Identify one cause of the Dust Bowl:

4- Identify one effect of the Dust Bowl:

5- Describe the Dust Bowl:

6- What did the Dust Bowl lengthen?
7- Which factor contributed most to the situation shown in the cartoon?
(1) low tariff rates
(2) shortages of consumer goods
(3) nonregulation of banks
(4) creation of a national bank

Analyze the following images:
“'Hooverville’ became a common term for shacktowns and homeless encampments during the Great Depression. There were dozens in the state of Washington, hundreds throughout the country, each testifying to the housing crisis that accompanied the employment crisis of the early 1930s. ‘Hooverville’ was a deliberately politicized label, emphasizing that President Herbert Hoover and the Republican Party were to be held responsible for the economic crisis and its miseries.” ~ washington.edu

Identify three facts about Hoovervilles:
1-
2-
3-
The New York Times

STOCKS COLLAPSE IN 16,410,030 – SHARE DAY, BUT RALLY AT CLOSE CHEERS BROKERS; BANKERS OPTIMISTIC, TO CONTINUE AID

240 Issues Lose $15,894,818,894 in Month; Slump in Full Exchange List Vastly Larger
-October 30, 1929, Page 1, Columns 6-8

2- According to the New York Times, what happened to the value of the American stock market in October 1929?

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3- Based on the chart above, what effect did the stock market crash of 1929 have on the rate of unemployment the United States?

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4- Thinking Question: How did the stock market crash affect businesses?

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5- Thinking Question: How did the stock market crash affect employment?

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6- Thinking Question: How did high rates of unemployment affect American families?
Document 4:
“...Values have shrunken to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone...

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely...It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government itself...but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources.

Hand in hand with this, we must...endeavor to provide a better use of the land for those best fitted for the land. The task can be helped by definite efforts to raise the values of agricultural products and with this the power to purchase the output of our cities. It can be helped by preventing realistically the tragedy of the growing loss through foreclosure of our small homes and our farms.

Finally, in our progress toward a resumption of work we require two safeguards against a return of the evils of the old order; there must be a strict supervision of all banking and credits and investments; there must be an end to speculation with other people’s money, and there must be provision for an adequate but sound currency.”

-Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933

4a. According to Roosevelt, what problems did the United States face in 1933?

4b. What solutions does Roosevelt propose to end these problems?

Document 5:
“...Republicans followed a trickle-down theory... They reasoned that, if government legislation protected the wealth of big corporations and the well-to-do, their continued investments would expand the economy and a better life would ‘trickle down’ to workers and consumers in general.

FDR and his advisors viewed things differently. They felt that government would use pump-priming that government should take actions that would make the consuming public secure and optimistic... By increasing government programs, business activity would increase, thereby fostering consumer confidence and investment keeping the economy growing...”

-United States History & Government: Constitutional & Geopolitical Patterns, 2001

5a. Why did President Herbert Hoover follow a trickle-down theory in order to combat the Great Depression?

5b. Why did President Franklin Roosevelt follow a theory of pump-priming to combat the Great Depression?
What is the main idea of the political cartoon?
This cartoon from 1925 criticized flappers and their male counterparts ("jelly beans") for what many perceived as laziness and irresponsibility.

What is the meaning of the political cartoon?
"Scuse me, Buddy, is this the bread-line or a run on a bank?"

What is the meaning of the political cartoon?

What is the meaning of the political cartoon?