



Men without jobs wait in a bread line to get needed food.

Moving North

Hoping to find better jobs, many African Americans moved from rural areas in the South. They wanted to escape racial violence and Jim Crow laws that took away their rights. Also, beetles had ruined the cotton crop. This caused many people in the South to lose their jobs. They hoped to find jobs and a better life in the North.

This movement of African Americans is called the **Great Migration**. The Great Migration led to African American communities in Northern cities, such as Harlem in New York City.

A number of African American artists lived in Harlem. Poet Langston Hughes, musician Duke Ellington, and writer W.E.B. Du Bois were all part of the **Harlem Renaissance**—a time of creativity in the 1920s. Harlem became a center for African American culture.

Crash!

Many people bought stocks, hoping to get rich. On October 29, 1929, the stock market “crashed.” Prices fell to

record lows. The crash ended the Roaring Twenties. It started a period in the 1930s called the **Great Depression**. Many people have no jobs or money during a depression.

A Plan to End the Great Depression

In 1932, New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt was elected President. In his first speech as President, Roosevelt boldly declared, “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” His first act was to call for a “bank holiday.” Banks were closed for three days to stop people from removing all of their money at once.

President Roosevelt’s plan was called the **New Deal**. Social Security was established to provide income to retired Americans. Other programs paid for new roads and to bring electricity to rural areas. These projects provided jobs and improved life for New Yorkers and other Americans.

 **QUICK CHECK** How did the stock market affect the 1920s and 1930s? *Cause and Effect*

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In the 1930s, there was trouble in Europe again. Americans disagreed about what role the United States should play in Europe's troubles. Some people wanted to ignore Europe while others felt the nation should try to help. The United States planned to remain neutral if another war started in Europe.

The World of Tomorrow

In 1939, New York opened a world's fair. A world's fair is an exhibition of displays from many countries. The fair's theme in 1939 was "The World of Tomorrow." The planners wanted to celebrate the

inventions and ideas that would make a better world possible.

In September 1939, the lights on the Polish building at the fair were turned off. The German army had attacked Poland. World War II had begun.

 **QUICK CHECK** What event started World War II? *Cause and Effect*

What You Learned

- A** In the early 1900s, the Progressive Era brought about many changes.
- B** An economic boom in the 1920s was followed by the Great Depression.
- C** Another world war broke out in 1939.

Focus Lesson Review

1. **Focus Question** How did New Yorkers face the challenges of the 20th century?
2. **Vocabulary** Write a description of life after World War I using the following vocabulary terms.
Great Depression **Prohibition**
Harlem Renaissance
3. **Economics** Why did Franklin Roosevelt close the banks for three days?
4. **Critical Thinking Make Inferences** Why did President Roosevelt warn Americans about "fear itself?"

5. Reading Strategy Cause and Effect

How did the stock market crash affect New York?

	▶
	▶
	▶
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6. Write About

How did new inventions like airplanes and movies change people's lives?

7. Reading Primary Sources

"August 26th will be remembered as one of the great days in the history of the women of the world and in the history of this republic."

What is the New York **Times** article describing? Why do you think so?

BIOGRAPHY

Focus on Respect

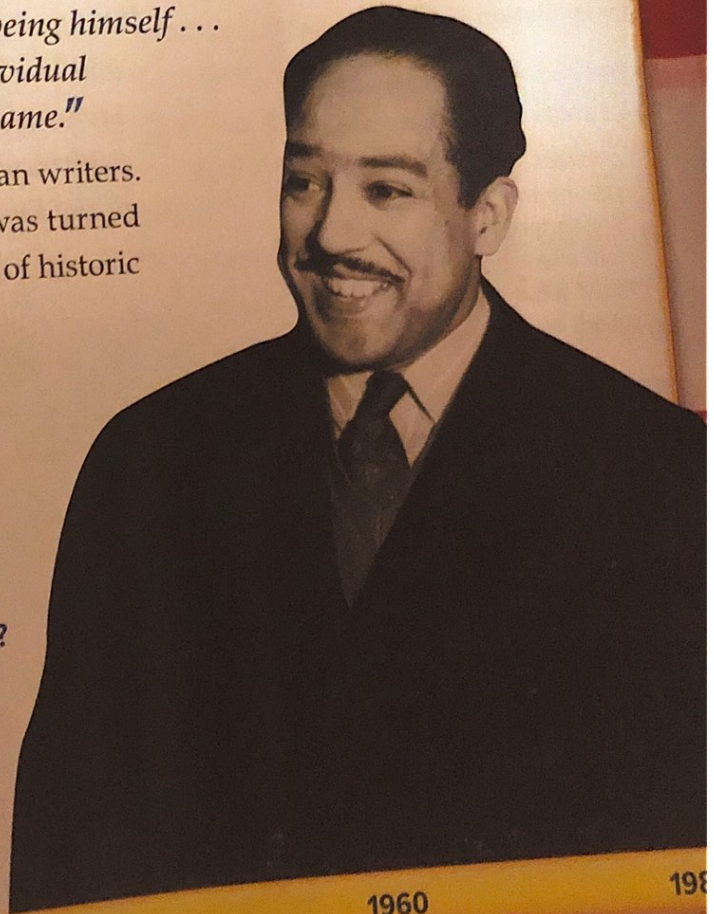
Langston Hughes 1902–1967

Langston Hughes began writing poetry in the eighth grade. In his high school, he was elected class poet. Hughes continued writing as an adult in New York City. He spent a lot of time in Harlem jazz clubs. Jazz music gave his writing a special rhythm.

Hughes wrote poems, essays, books, and plays. A few of his best poetry collections include *The Weary Blues* (1926) and *Shakespeare in Harlem* (1942). Hughes was proud of his background. He said:

"No great poet has ever been afraid of being himself . . . We . . . now intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear or shame."

Hughes inspired other African American writers. After he died in 1967, his Harlem home was turned into a New York City landmark, or place of historic interest.



Write About It!

How do you think music can influence someone's poetry?

The Life of Langston Hughes

1900

1902

James Langston Hughes is born in Joplin, Missouri

1920

1923

Travels to Africa and Europe

1926

Publishes first book of poems

1940

1943

Writes a column for a Chicago Newspaper

1960

1967

Langston Hughes dies

1980