



*Honoring the Spirit of America*

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## ***“African-American Creativity”***

***Subject Area:***

Social Studies

***Subject Area/Grade Level Taught:***

US History (11<sup>th</sup> grade)

***Quality Plus Teaching Strategies Used:***

Technology

Collaboration

***Concept/ Topic to Teach:***

Harlem Renaissance

***Georgia Standards Addressed:***

SSUSH 16

For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan satisfies.

***General Goal(s):***

To gain a better understanding of the Harlem Renaissance.

***Specific Objectives:***

1. Identify important people during the Harlem Renaissance.
2. Explain the importance and impact of the Harlem Renaissance.

***Required Materials:***

Costumes

Internet

Books

Paper

Pen

Decorations

Books from below:

***African Americans: Voices of Triumph., Vol. 3 Creative Fires***, Time-Life Books, 1994.

Volume three of a three-volume set on African Americans, it covers a tradition of African art as well as

other topics in the arts, including music, literature, visual arts, and filmmaking. This volume does not center on the Harlem Renaissance, but references the period. The bibliography contains a far-reaching list of books about all aspects of African American culture. Good photos, illustrations, and reproductions.

Haskins, Jim, *The Harlem Renaissance*, The Millbrook Press, 1996.

A very nice introduction to the Harlem Renaissance movement that is accessible to young adults. It contains many photographs and illustrations and includes commentary from the people of the time.

Hughes, Langston and Milton Meltzer, *Black Magic: A Pictorial History of the African American in the Performing Arts*, Da Capo Press, 1990 (pbk.).

An insightful look at the history of African American entertainers. Great photographs and illustrations.

Lewis, David Levering, *When Harlem Was In Vogue*, Penguin USA 1997 (pbk.).

In this extremely interesting history of Harlem's culture, Lewis captures the excitement of the times. With a new preface, the author reconsiders the period in light of criticism surrounding the exploitation of the black community.

Powell, Richard J. (ed.), *Rhapsodies in Black: Art of the Harlem Renaissance*, University of California Press, 1997 (also in pbk.).

An exhibit catalog that reflects the Harlem Renaissance's impressive range of art forms, including literature and music. The catalog contains 250 color and black-and-white illustrations. For a sampling, visit the [Rhapsodies in Black multimedia Web site](#).

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#### ***Step-By-Step Procedures:***

1. Form groups of students based on student's strengths and weaknesses.
2. Allow student to choose a subject area for their project (writers, visual artists, musicians, dancers, intellectual).
3. Allow student 1-2 days to research and gather information about their topic during the Harlem Renaissance. Stress to students to properly record and reference where they find information.
4. Develop a show/play that features the above subject area for the class. Decide that major "stars" of your show and a main theme for the show. Students should create a script for the play to submit for the teacher.
5. For each star that appears in the show (at least 3) create a poster noting quotes, photos, and biographical information to advertise the show.
6. Students should hang poster in the hallways to display their findings. Students should perform their show/drama in class.

#### ***Adaptations for Students with Special Needs:***

#### ***Extensions for Gifted Students:***

#### ***Possible Connections to Other Subjects:***

Art  
Drama

#### ***Additional Comments:***