

Name _____

Date _____



Harlem Renaissance

“We Born Again”

The rebirth, yeah, we born again,
That’s what the Harlem Renaissance is.
African Americans found a spotlight,
And we used it to highlight
Culture, art, joy, pain,
Music, dance, everything.
_____ was the place—go New York!
That it started taking shape—renaissance!

When slavery ended, blacks in the south
Started heading north, like peace, we out!
This is what you call the _____,
From fields to big cities in hopes of escaping
Racial terrorism and seeking opportunities.
Harlem, New York was a welcoming community,
Full of free thinkers and liberal minds,
They spent money on art and had a good time.
From this, new ideas began to arise
About blackness in America, with thinkers like
_____. _____ and his
Theory of _____,
Which said black people feel that their identity splits
Between being African and being American.
And Marcus Garvey encouraged pride
In that African heritage and tried to unite
Black Americans with the idea of going

Back to Africa, AKA the homeland.

These movements were at the start

Of what we call the Harlem Renaissance.

The rebirth, yeah, we born again,

That's what the Harlem Renaissance is.

African Americans found a spotlight,

And we used it to highlight

Culture, art, joy, pain,

Music, dance, everything.

Harlem was the place

That it started taking shape.

A _____ is a rebirth of sorts,

And blacks redefined their worth through art.

A musical named Shuffle Along, in fact,

Was written, produced and performed by blacks.

The first of its kind, a blockbuster

That white and black showgoers went nuts over.

Jazz and the blues made their way to Harlem, too,

And people were amazed at the crowds they drew.

Musicians like Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong

Packed out the house every night they performed songs.

Singers like Bessie Smith and _____

Sang so beautifully, it blew the crowd away.

It was also time to shine for writers and poets,

Black authors really saw their work flourish.

Like _____ and Claude McKay used

Their mighty pens to express their views,

And explored themes like race and _____.

The work proved timeless, it's full of wisdom.

Some even sound great over rap beats, too,

For instance, “Dreams” by _____:

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams

For when dreams go

Life is a barren field

Frozen with snow.

Harlem is the spot we locked.

We made a renaissance:

Our response.

Discrimination got my people low,

But we used brilliance to show you our souls.

Music, art, poetry, intellectuals:

Harlem Renaissance is our response,

Harlem Renaissance is our response.