

Harlem Creates Art

Trace how Harlem's history shaped creative expression.

3.4b "Arts, music, dance, and literature develop through a community's history."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words that name art, music, dance, or writing. Underline facts about Harlem's history that helped these arts grow.

Harlem's Creative Years

- ① In the early 1900s, many Black families moved from the South to Harlem, a neighborhood in New York City. They came looking for jobs and safer lives. Harlem became a busy community of neighbors, churches, shops, and clubs. People brought songs, stories, and customs from many places. These shared traditions helped Harlem become a center for new art.
- ② Musicians played jazz in Harlem clubs. Jazz mixed African American musical traditions with new sounds and rhythms. People danced the Lindy Hop, a lively partner dance, in ballrooms such as the Savoy. The music and dancing gave people ways to gather and celebrate. As more people heard them, jazz and the Lindy Hop spread beyond Harlem.
- ③ Writers also told stories about Harlem life. Langston Hughes wrote poems about dreams, music, and everyday people. Painters, actors, and photographers showed the neighborhood's energy in their work. This time of growing Black art, music, writing, and dance is called the Harlem Renaissance. The community's history helped shape its arts, and its arts shared that history with others.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What did families bring to Harlem, and how did these things help the community?

2 How did jazz and the Lindy Hop help people in Harlem?

3 How did Langston Hughes's poems connect to Harlem community life?

4 How did Harlem's history and its arts affect each other?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a community you know or invent. Write 3 sentences about one event in its history and explain how that event could shape its music, dance, art, or stories.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle words that name art, music, dance, or writing. Underline facts about Harlem's history that helped these arts grow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did families bring to Harlem, and how did these things help the community?	They brought songs, stories, and customs from many places. These shared traditions helped Harlem become a center for new art.
2	How did jazz and the Lindy Hop help people in Harlem?	They gave people ways to gather and celebrate.
3	How did Langston Hughes's poems connect to Harlem community life?	He wrote poems about dreams, music, and everyday people.
4	How did Harlem's history and its arts affect each other?	Harlem's history helped shape its arts, and the arts shared that history with others.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the town of Riverbend, people rebuilt after a flood. A local singer wrote a song about neighbors sharing food and tools. Each year, people sing the song at a community gathering to remember how they helped one another.

Accept answers that connect a community event or change to a form of creative expression. For the open task, accept a realistic invented or familiar community example with a clear cause-and-effect link.