The Harlem Renaissance was the name given to the cultural, social, and artistic explosion that took place in Harlem between the end of World War I and the middle of the 1930s. During this period Harlem was a cultural mecca—drawing black writers, actors, artists, musicians, dancers, photographers, poets, scholars, supporters and activists.

Watch the ‘Crash course on Harlem Renaissance’

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir0URpl9nKQ

The Harlem Renaissance Timeline

http://harlem-renaissance1920.tumblr.com/Timeline

Although this first major movement of African-American literature flourished officially only until the onset of the 1930’s Depression, it provided a stimulus that lasted through the 1940s—and a reason for African-Americans to celebrate their culture!
But Harlem was much more than just a place for celebration—it was a literary movement featuring popular writers, intellectuals and activists such as Langston Hughes, W.E.B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston, and several others (including Claude McKay, Jean Toomer, Rudolf Fisher, Wallace Thurman, and Nella Larsen).

Some scholars consider the Harlem Renaissance to be the very moment African American literature first came into its own and credit it with being instrumental in the evolution of an entire group of people, formerly enslaved and illiterate, who became both free and literary over the short span of fifty years!
AUTHORS AND STORIES OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

GENERAL
http://www.biography.com/people/groups/movement-harlem-renais-sance
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americannovel/timeline/harlemrenais-sance.html
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_harlem.html

LANGSTON HUGHES
http://www.biography.com/people/langston-hughes-9346313
http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poet/langston-hughes

W.E.B. DuBois
‘One ever feels his twoness - an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.’
http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/w-e-b-du-bois
http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/w-e-b-du-bois
http://www.biography.com/people/web-du-bois-9279924

ZORA NEALE HURSTON
http://chdr.cah.ucf.edu/hurstonarchive/
http://www.loc.gov/collection/zora-neale-hurston-plays/about-this-col-lection/

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD MOVIE (HURSTON)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teUi8N5ZaNs
The Harlem Renaissance was also instrumental in the birth of important organizations which, in turn, supported African American culture in the United States: the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-1909), the NUL (National Urban League-1910), followed by UNIA in 1914 (established by Marcus Garvey) to instill racial pride and economic self-sufficiency for Black people in America and throughout the Pan African world.

‘Founded in 1909 by DuBois, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. From the ballot box to the classroom, the thousands of dedicated workers, organizers, leaders and members who make up the NAACP continue to fight for social justice for all Americans.’

http://www.naacp.org/pages/naacp-history-w.e.b-dubois
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_crisis.html

The Crisis Magazine (DuBois)
Music of the Harlem Renaissance

Harlem’s Cotton Club boasted the talents of Duke Ellington while Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday popularized blues and jazz. In addition, Jelly Roll Morton and Louis Armstrong drew huge crowds of white Americans as they joined African Americans in jazz fever.

Duke Ellington
http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_ellington_duke.htm
http://www.biography.com/people/duke-ellington-9286338
http://www.dukeellington.com/

Billie Holiday
http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_holiday_billie.htm
http://www.biography.com/people/billie-holiday-9341902
http://www.billieholiday.com/

Louis Armstrong
http://www.biography.com/people/louis-armstrong-9188912
http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_armstrong_louis.htm
https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/
Art and Artists of The Harlem Renaissance

‘Between 1920-1930 an outburst of creativity among African American occurred in every aspect of art. This cultural movement became known as ‘The New Negro Movement’ later the ‘Harlem Renaissance’. Harlem attracted a prosperous and stylish middle class which sprouted an artistic center. African Americans were encouraged to celebrate their heritage and to become "The New Negro" a term coined in 1925 by sociologist and critic Alain LeRoy Locke.’

http://www.iniva.org/harlem/index2.html
http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/interactives/harlem/faces/index.html#artists
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/arts/artfocus_03.html
10 ‘Must-Knows’ of

The Harlem Renaissance

1. The Great Migration: a massive movement of formerly oppressed Southern blacks to the North, with dreams of racial equality and economic opportunity. This population migration is what made the Harlem Renaissance possible.

2. The "New Negro": a name to African Americans’ evolving identities. "The New Negro" was also the original name for the Harlem Renaissance itself.

3. The Rise of Jazz: Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday (to name just a few)

4. W.E.B. Du Bois’s Concept of Duality (or ‘Twoness’) One ever feels his twoness - an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.

5. Racial Division: The Racial Division during the time of The Harlem Renaissance produced what Du Bois called "second sight": that ability to see the world and the self from (at least) two different angles.

6. Pan-Africanism and the black Nationalist movement began with the efforts of Marcus Garvey—it was a call for African people across the globe to unite.

7. Modernism: You already know a lot about modernism: New, fresh, Avant-garde, etc., etc.

8. High/Low Culture: What you get when you mix what’s usually considered "high art" with "popular art" (or the mundane).

9. Socialism/Communism: Socialism and Communism were favorites of the more politically minded writers of the Harlem Renaissance because of their shared commitment to the equal distribution of resources.

10. Urbanity: Harlem Renaissance times were cool, sophisticated and ‘totally rad’!
ASSIGNMENTS FOR ASSIGNMENT #9: THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

1. Explore all provided links to learn about the individuals who created and participated in the time period of The Harlem Renaissance. Spend a lot of time exploring the ‘DROP ME OFF IN HARLEM’ ARTS EDGE KENNEDY CENTER site at http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/interactives/harlem/faces/index.html#artists.

2. Watch the movie based upon Zora Neale Hurston’s ‘Their Eyes were Watching God’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teUi8N5ZaNs

3. Listen to Langston Hughes reading his poem ‘Dreams’ at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hz2I0juxMy0&list=RDhz2I0juxMy0&t=9