

**CHAPTER**  
**7**  
**SECTION 5**

**Section Summary**  
**THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE**

Millions of African Americans left the South after World War I to find freedom and economic opportunity in the North. In the South, they faced low-paying jobs, substandard schools, Jim Crow oppression, and the threat of lynching. However, they found well-paying jobs, a middle class of African American professionals, and a growing political voice in cities such as New York, Chicago, and Detroit.

Harlem in New York City became a haven for about 200,000 African Americans from the South as well as black immigrants from the Caribbean. One immigrant was **Marcus Garvey**, a Jamaican who had traveled widely. After seeing that blacks were treated poorly, Garvey organized a "Back to Africa" movement that urged black unity and separation of the races.

It was F. Scott Fitzgerald who called the 1920s the "Jazz Age." However, it was African Americans who gave the age its **jazz**. A truly indigenous American musical form, jazz emerged in the South as a combination of African American and European musical styles. African Americans migrating north brought the new musical style with them. Musicians such as trumpet player **Louis Armstrong** took jazz to the world. Singer **Bessie Smith**, nicknamed the "Empress of the Blues," was so popular she became the highest-paid African American entertainer of the 1920s.

The decade also saw the **Harlem Renaissance**, an outpouring of art and literature that explored the African American experience. Among its most famous writers was **Claude McKay**, whose novels and poems were militant calls for action. **Langston Hughes** celebrated African American culture, and **Zora Neale Hurston** wrote about women's desire for independence.

The Great Depression ended the Harlem Renaissance. However, the pride and unity it created provided a foundation for the future civil rights movement.

**Review Questions**

1. Why did many African Americans migrate north?

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2. What was the "Back to Africa" movement?

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**READING CHECK**

What did F. Scott Fitzgerald name the 1920s?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

Find the word *indigenous* in the underlined sentence. What do you think it means? Circle words, phrases, or sentences in the surrounding paragraph to help you define *indigenous*.

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**READING SKILL**

**Identify Main Ideas** What was the Harlem Renaissance?

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