

Directions: Use the chart and poem to answer the following questions in complete sentences. Answers not in complete sentences will be marked incorrect.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Women in the 1920s:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New household appliances reduced housework, and greater numbers of women went to college ➤ Some women gained a new economic independence ➤ Women began to smoke and drink in public ➤ Women rejected restrictive fashions for shorter hair and skirts above the knees ➤ Sexual behavior became more open ➤ Flappers wore short dresses and danced the Charleston <p>~ The Key to Understanding U.S. History and Government</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Youth and the Lost Generation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Young adults were responsible for zany fads like flagpole sitting and marathon dancing ➤ A new group of writers, known as the Lost Generation, rejected the desire for material wealth ➤ Writers such as Sinclair Lewis in <i>Main Street</i> and <i>Babbitt</i>, ridiculed the narrowness and hypocrisy of American life ➤ F. Scott Fitzgerald in <i>The Great Gatsby</i> hinted that the search for purely material success often led to tragedy <p style="text-align: center;">“In opposition to traditional values stood the new values of the period, which encouraged greater openness and self-expression.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Harlem Renaissance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 1920s are often referred to as the Jazz Age, reflecting the greater importance of African-American music ➤ African Americans, who had begun migrating to Northern cities during World War I, continued to do so in the 1920s ➤ The center of African-American life in the 1920s was Harlem in New York City ➤ An awakening of African-American culture in these years became known as the ‘Harlem Renaissance’ ➤ Poets and writers like Langston Hughes and Alain Locke expressed a new pride in their heritage ➤ Marcus Garvey, stressing racial unity through self-help, encouraged African Americans to set up their own shops and businesses
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1. What reduced housework in the 1920s?

2. What did more American women do in the 1920s?

3. What had some American women gained in the 1920s?

4. What did some American women begin to do in the 1920s?

5. Do you remember what Amendment gave women the right to vote?

6. What did some American women begin to reject?

7. Who were the flappers?

8. What were young people responsible for in the 1920s?

9. What did the writers of the Lost Generation reject?

10. The “Lost Generation” refers to young men who came of age during World War I. Why do you think World War I had led some young men to be disillusioned with Western civilization?

11. Identify several important writers during this time period.

12. Why was the decade of the 1920s known as the Jazz Age?

13. What had many African Americans done during World War I?

14. Why do you think many African Americans joined this northern migration?

15. Why was Harlem important in the 1920s?

16. What was the Harlem Renaissance?

17. Identify several significant poets and writers of the Harlem Renaissance:

18. Who was Marcus Garvey and what did he believe?

19. Marcus Garvey planned a Back-to-Africa Movement, in which African Americans would return to Africa. Why do you think Marcus Garvey believed that African Americans should return to Africa?

20. African Americans faced discrimination and racism in the United States. Many innocent African Americans were lynched or hanged. Why then was the Harlem Renaissance so very important for all Americans? What did it teach all Americans about African Americans?

Primary Source: Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance
I, Too, Sing America by Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
 They send me to eat in the kitchen
 When company comes,
 But I laugh,
 And eat well,
 And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
 I'll be at the table
 When company comes.
 Nobody'll dare
 Say to me,
 "Eat in the kitchen,"
 Then.

Besides,
 They'll see how beautiful I am
 And be ashamed –

I, too, am America.

21. How does this poem make you think about the United States?

22. What effect does the imagery of the poem – the house, the kitchen, the eating, and the table – have on the themes of this piece as a whole?

23. What kind of character is the speaker?

24. What relationship does the historical setting of this poem have to Hughes's contemporary setting?

 How has the United States changed since Langston Hughes wrote this poem?

25. How has the United States not changed since Langston Hughes wrote this poem?

26. How would a person living in another country view the United States after reading this poem?

