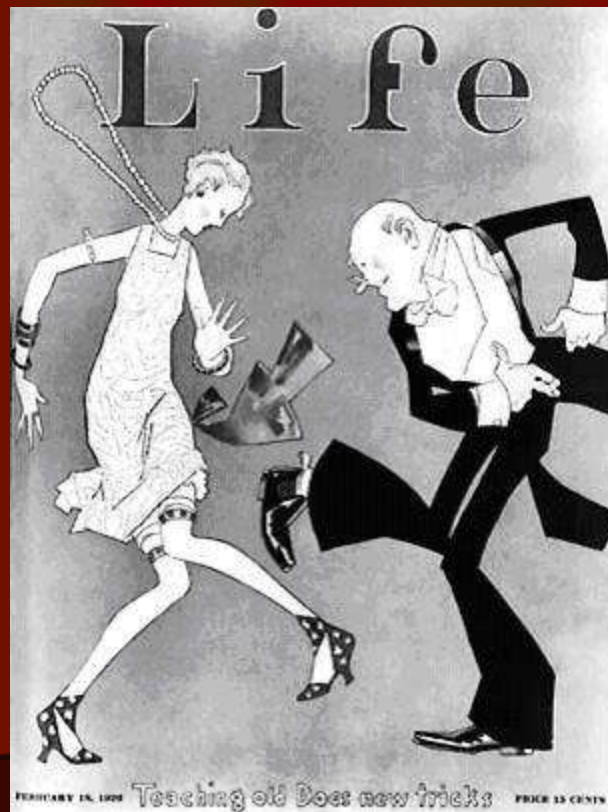


The Roaring Twenties

SSUSH 16: The student will identify key developments in the aftermath of WWI



c. Describe the impact of radio and the movies

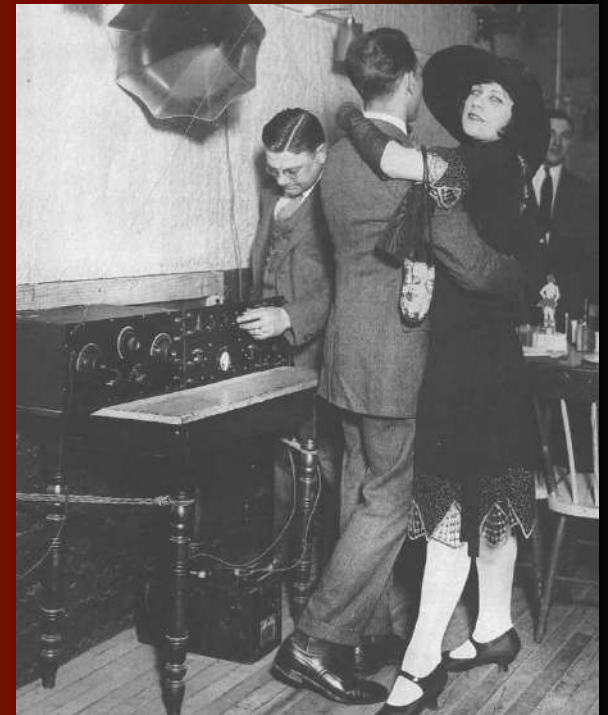


- Radio companies such as CBS and NBC were formed in the 1920s
- Radio allowed listeners to hear instant news of events
 - Radio provided a way for families to come together to listen to broadcasts
- Movies in the 1920s helped show “modern” lifestyles to Americans



Radio

- March 1922: the Atlanta Journal started WSB, the first radio station in the South



The Jazz Singer

- The first feature-length motion picture with sound
- Marked the beginning of “talkies” and the decline of silent films
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIaj7FNHnjQ>



Hollywood

- Douglas Fairbanks
 - Founding member of United Artists
 - Movie star in silent films like Robin Hood
- Charlie Chaplin
 - Academy Award winning actor in silent films
 - Co-founder of United Artists
- Gloria Swanson
 - Actress and fashion icon of 1920s



d. Describe modern forms of cultural expression;
include Louis Armstrong and the origins of jazz,
Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance,
Irving Berlin, and Tin Pan Alley



Jazz Music

- Energetic music that reflected the restlessness of the 1920s
- Origin = music made on Southern plantations
- Introduced to a wider audience through radio and movies



Louis Armstrong

- Jazz trumpeter and singer
- Foundational influence on jazz music
 - Mainly in New York City
- Played an improvised form of Dixie Ragtime and jazz
- Described as “perhaps the most important American musician of the 20th century”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2VCwBzGdPM>

<http://www.archive.org/details/s/Misbehavin>

Langston Hughes

- American poet, novelist, playwright, short story writer and columnist
- Born in Mississippi
- Racial pride was a characteristic of Hughes, but also of the Harlem Renaissance as a movement
- Wrote poems describing the disenfranchisement of many African Americans



"I, Too"

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.

- Langston Hughes, 1925

"I, Too"

- What is this poem about?
- Do you think this poem conveys a positive message or a negative one?
- How does Hughes view perceive the "place" of African Americans in society during the 1920s?

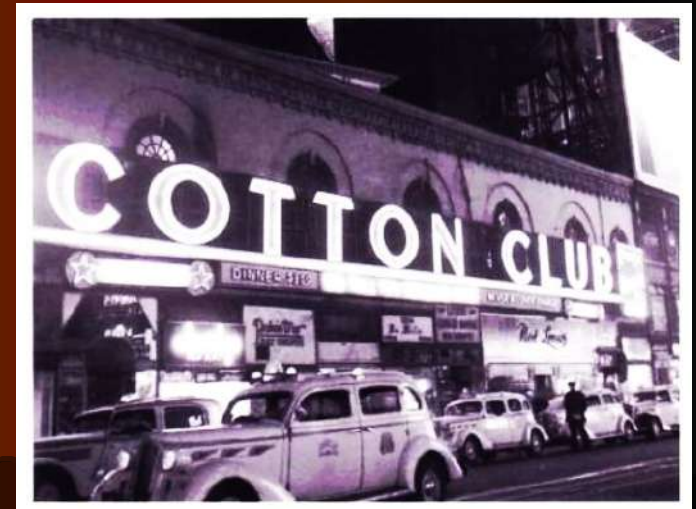
Langston Hughes

Life is Fine

I went down to the river,
I set down on the bank.
I tried to think but couldn't,
So I jumped in and sank.
I came up once and hollered!
I came up twice and cried!
If that water hadn't a-been so cold
I might've sunk and died.
Though you may hear me holler,
And you may see me cry—
I'll be dogged, sweet baby,
If you gonna see me die.
Life is fine! Fine as wine! Life is fine!

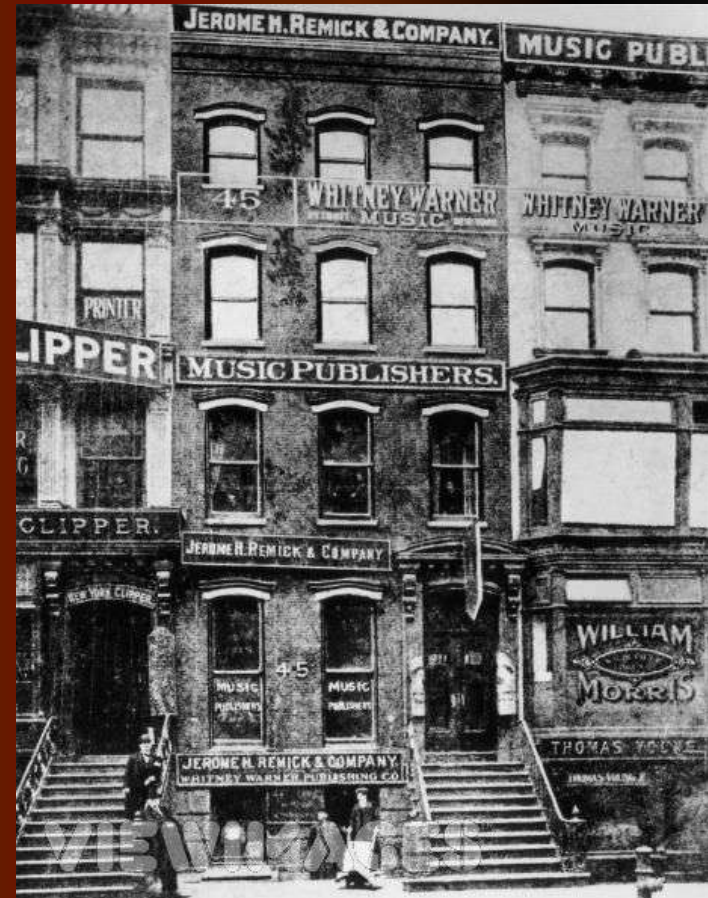
Harlem Renaissance

- Centered in the Harlem neighborhood of NYC
 - A celebration of African American music, poetry, prose, theater and art
- Artists and intellectuals found new ways to explore the historical experiences of black America and the contemporary experiences of black life in the urban North.
- African-American artists and intellectuals rejected imitating the styles of Europeans and white Americans and instead celebrated black dignity and creativity.



Tin Pan Alley

- The name given to a collection of New York City songwriters & music publishers in the 1920s
- The start of the New York Tin Pan Alley is usually dated to about 1885, when a number of music publishers set up shop in the same district of Manhattan
- “Tin Pan Alley” = a specific location (*28th Street between Broadway and Fifth*) where this group of songwriters got their start



Irving Berlin

- One of the most famous writers of Tin Pan Alley was Irving Berlin
- 1920s songwriter
 - Composed over 3,000 songs
- He wrote such songs as "God Bless America", "White Christmas", and "Alexander's Ragtime Band"
- Wrote for films and Broadway shows



Sports

- School sports introduced
- Many sports open to the middle class for the first time (i.e. Golf)
- Nearly every sport increases in popularity
- Notable Moments:
 - Water Skiing is invented (1922)
 - Babe Ruth breaks Home Run Record (1927)
 - Record 61 home runs stayed on the books until 1961
 - Gertrude Ederle Swims the English Channel (1926)
 - Start of the Negro National League (baseball - 1920)



Practice Question

1. Which BEST defines the Harlem Renaissance?
 - a. a time of great racial tension exemplified by race riots in New York
 - b. a time of high interest in southern African American culture
 - c. a concentrated time of African American achievement in literature and music
 - d. the renovation of turn of the century buildings in Harlem

Practice Question

2. Which phrase describes the 1920s?
- a. spirited and uncertain
 - b. prosperous and secure
 - c. stable and traditional
 - d. trusting and patriotic