

The Roaring Life of the 1920s, 1920–1929

Americans confront changes in society as women enter new roles and the mass media gains a growing audience. The Harlem Renaissance signals the flourishing of African-American culture.



 Duke Ellington, U.S. musician and composer.

Section 1

Changing Ways of Life

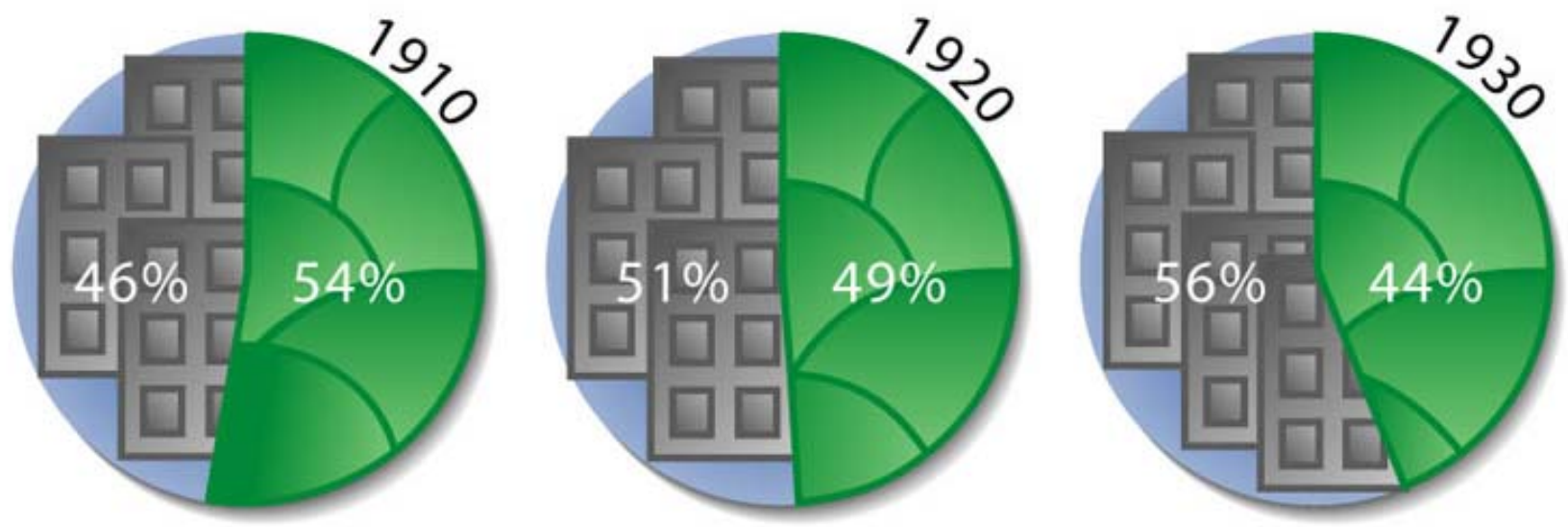
Americans experience cultural conflicts as customs and values change in the 1920s.

Rural and Urban Differences

The New Urban Scene

- 1920 census: 51.2% of Americans in communities of 2,500 or more
- 1922–1929, nearly 2 million people leave farms, towns each year
- Largest cities are New York, Chicago, Philadelphia
 - 65 other cities with 100,000 people or more
- In 1920s, people caught between rural, urban cultures
 - close ties, hard work, strict morals of small towns
 - anonymous crowds, moneymaking, pleasure seeking of cities

Urbanization of America, 1910-1930



 Urban population  Rural population

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

Rural and Urban Differences

The Prohibition Experiment

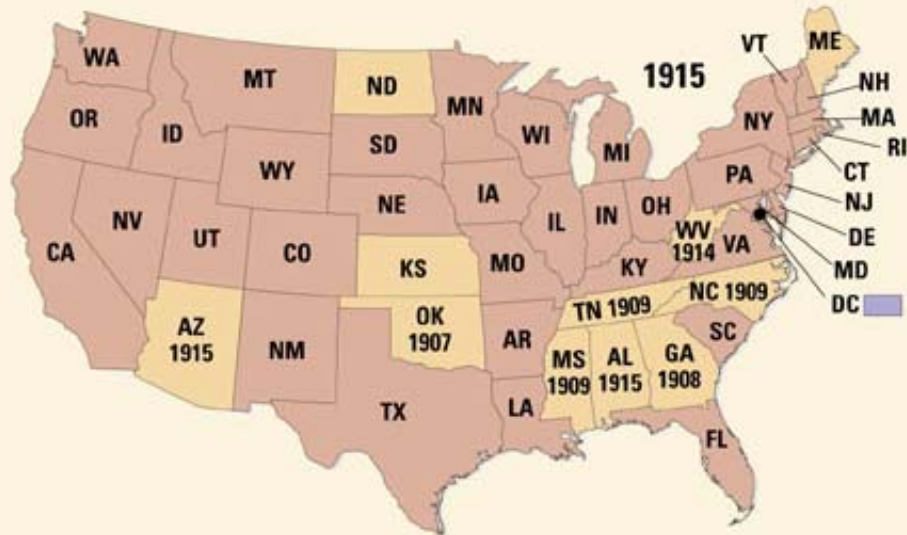
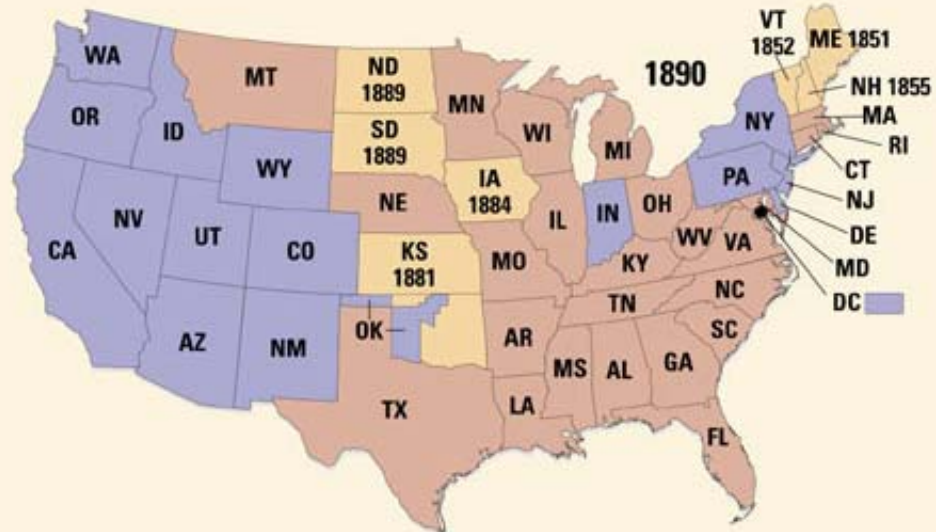
- 18th Amendment launches Prohibition era
 - supported by religious groups, rural South, West

[Visual]

- **Prohibition**—production, sale, transportation of alcohol illegal
- Government does not budget enough money to enforce the law

CH 13-1 CHANGING WAYS OF LIFE

Prohibition, 1890 and 1915



■ "Dry" ■ "Wet" ■ Local prohibition

Rural and Urban Differences

Speakeasies and Bootleggers

- **Speakeasies** (hidden saloons, nightclubs) become fashionable
- People distill liquor, buy prescription alcohol, sacramental wine
- **Bootleggers** smuggle alcohol from surrounding countries

Rural and Urban Differences

Organized Crime

- Prohibition contributes to organized crime in major cities *[Visual]*
- Al Capone controls Chicago liquor business by killing competitors
- By mid-1920s, only 19% support Prohibition
- 18th Amendment in force until 1933; repealed by 21st Amendment



AL CAPONE



Received
 From *Ill. Chicago*
 Crime *Via Income Tax Laws*
 Sentence: *10* yrs. — mos. — days
 Date of sentence *Oct 24 - 1931*
 Sentence begins *May 4 - 1932*
 Sentence expires *May 3 - 1942*
 Good time sentence expires *Jan 19 - 1939*
 Date of birth *1-17-99* Occupation *Gambler*
 Birthplace *Ill* Nationality
 Age *33* Comp. *Med fr*
 Height *5'-10 1/2"* Eyes *Grey*
 Weight *255* Hair *dk brn*
 Build *Slend*
 Residence *Chicago, Ill*

Scars and marks. *b scar 4" across cheek 2" on L ear - Vert scar 2 1/2" on jaw - b scar 2 1/2" - 2" on L ear on neck*

CRIMINAL HISTORY

NAME	NUMBER	CITY	DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
<i>My City</i>			<i>1919</i>	<i>Dis Cond</i>	<i>Discharged</i>
<i>Chicago Ill</i>			<i>1923</i>	<i>Traffic Vio</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>
<i>Do</i>			<i>5-8-24</i>	<i>Murder Witness</i>	<i>Released</i>
<i>Do</i>			<i>6-7-26</i>	<i>Vio U.P.A</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>
<i>Do</i>			<i>1-28-26</i>	<i>Murder</i>	<i>Charge Withdrawn</i>
<i>Do</i>			<i>10-1-26</i>	<i>Vio U.P.A</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>
<i>Do</i>			<i>11-12-27</i>	<i>Refused Duty</i>	<i>Do</i>
<i>Joliet Ill</i>			<i>12-22-27</i>	<i>Con. Work</i>	<i>Fined \$26.00. 00</i>
<i>Phila. Pa</i>			<i>5-17-29</i>	<i>Con. Work</i>	<i>Served 12 mos</i>
<i>Miami Fla</i>			<i>1928</i>	<i>Susp.</i>	<i>Released</i>
<i>Do</i>			<i>5-8-20</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Held, nights, release</i>

Form ja g 55-12-9-31 3-M for other arrests see Declaration

CH 13-1 CHANGING WAYS OF LIFE



Science and Religion Clash

American Fundamentalism

- **Fundamentalism**—movement based on literal interpretation of Bible
- Fundamentalists skeptical of some scientific discoveries, theories
 - reject theory of evolution
- Believe all important knowledge can be found in Bible
- Fundamentalist preachers lead religious revivals in South, West *[Visual]*
 - Billy Sunday holds emotional meetings
 - Aimee Semple McPherson uses showmanship while preaching on radio

BILLY SUNDAY

Evangelist on the Sawdust Trail



LIBRARY OF RELIGIOUS BIOGRAPHY

AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON

Everybody's Sister



EDITH L. BLUMHOFER

Science and Religion Clash

The Scopes Trial

- 1925, Tennessee passes law making it a crime to teach evolution
- American Civil Liberties Union backs John T. Scopes challenge of law
- **Clarence Darrow**, most famous trial lawyer of day, defends Scopes
- Fundamentalist William Jennings Bryan is special prosecutor
- **Scopes trial**—debates evolution, role of science, religion in school *[Visual]*
 - national sensation; thousands attend
- Bryan admits Bible open to interpretation; Scopes found guilty

CH 13-1 CHANGING WAYS OF LIFE



Section 2

The Twenties Woman

American women pursue new lifestyles and assume new jobs and different roles in society during the 1920s.

Young Women Change the Rules

The Flapper

- **Flapper**—emancipated young woman, adopts new fashions, attitudes *[Visual]*
- Many young women want equal status with men, become assertive
- Middle-class men, women begin to see marriage as equal partnership
 - housework, child-rearing still woman's job

CH 13-2 THE 20'S WOMEN



Young Women Change the Rules

The Double Standard

- Elders disapprove new behavior and its promotion by periodicals, ads
- Casual dating begins to replace formal courtship
- Women subject to **double standard** (less sexual freedom than men)
 - must observe stricter standards of behavior

Women Shed Old Roles at Home and at Work

New Work Opportunities

- After war, employers replace female workers with men
- Female college graduates become teachers, nurses, librarians
- Many women become clerical workers as demand rises
- Some become sales clerks, factory workers
- Few become managers; always paid less than men

Women Shed Old Roles

The Changing Family

- Birthrate drops partly due to more birth-control information
- Manufactured products, public services give homemakers freedom *[Visual]*
- Housewives can focus more on families, pastimes, not housework
- Marriages increasingly based on romantic love, companionship
- Children spend most of day at school, organized activities
 - adolescents resist parental control
- Working-class, college-educated women juggle family, work



© 1915 K.T.O.F. Co.

Every Morning Millions Enjoy

Kellogg's

the Original Toasted Corn Flakes

Section 3

Education and Popular Culture

The mass media, movies, and spectator sports play important roles in creating the popular culture of the 1920s—a culture that many artists and writers criticize.

Schools and the Mass Media Shape Culture

School Enrollments

- High school population increases dramatically in 1920s due to:
 - prosperity
 - higher standards for industry jobs
- Pre-1920s, high school for college-bound students
- In 1920s, high schools also offer vocational training
- Public schools prepare immigrant children who speak no English
- School taxes increase as school costs rise sharply

Schools and the Mass Media Shape Culture

Expanding News Coverage

- Mass media shapes mass culture; takes advantage of greater literacy
- By 1914, hundreds of local newspapers replaced by national chains
- 1920s, mass-market magazines thrive; *Reader's Digest*, *Time* founded

Radio Comes of Age

- Radio is most powerful communications medium of 1920s
- Networks provide shared national experience
 - can hear news as it happens

America Chases New Heroes and Old Dreams

New-Found Leisure Time

- In 1920s, many people have extra money, leisure time to enjoy it
- Crowds attend sports events; athletes glorified by mass media

Lindbergh's Flight

- **Charles A. Lindbergh** makes first solo nonstop flight across Atlantic
- Small-town Minnesotan symbolizes honesty, bravery in age of excess
- Lindbergh paves the way for other pilots *[Visual]*

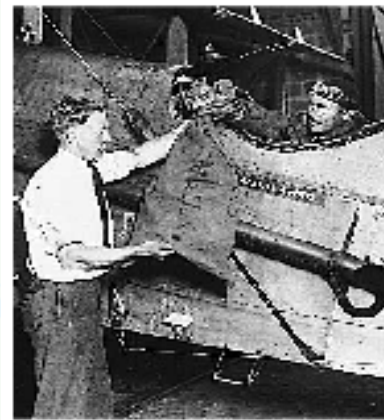
CH 13-3 Education and Popular Culture

Historic Flights, 1919–1932

1920

First transcontinental airmail service in the U.S.

[Photo](#)



May 20–21, 1932

Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, in a record time of about 15 hours from Newfoundland to Ireland.

[Photo](#)



March 14, 1927

Pan American Airways is founded to handle airmail deliveries. First route is between Key West and Havana.

Key West
Havana
CUBA



May 20–21, 1927

Charles Lindbergh establishes a record of 33 hours 29 minutes in his 3,614-mile nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic.

[Photo](#)

INTERACTIVE KEY

SHOW KEY



America Chases New Heroes and Old Dreams

Entertainment and the Arts

- Silent movies already a national pastime
- Introduction of sound leads millions to attend every week
- Playwrights, composers break away from European traditions
- **George Gershwin** uses jazz to create American music
- Painters portray American realities, dreams
- **Georgia O'Keeffe** paints intensely colored canvases of New York

America Chases New Heroes and Old Dreams

Writers of the 1920s

- **Sinclair Lewis** is first American to win Nobel Prize for literature
 - criticizes conformity, materialism
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald** reveals negative side of era's gaiety, freedom
- **Edna St. Vincent Millay** celebrates youth, independence in her poems
- Writers soured by American culture, war settle in Europe
 - called Lost Generation
- Expatriate **Ernest Hemingway** introduces simple, tough, American style *[Visual]*

CH 13-3 Education and Popular Culture



U.S. writer Ernest Hemingway and Sylvia Beach in front of her Paris bookstore, Shakespeare and Company (1928).

Section 4

The Harlem Renaissance

African-American ideas, politics, art, literature, and music flourish in Harlem and elsewhere in the United States.

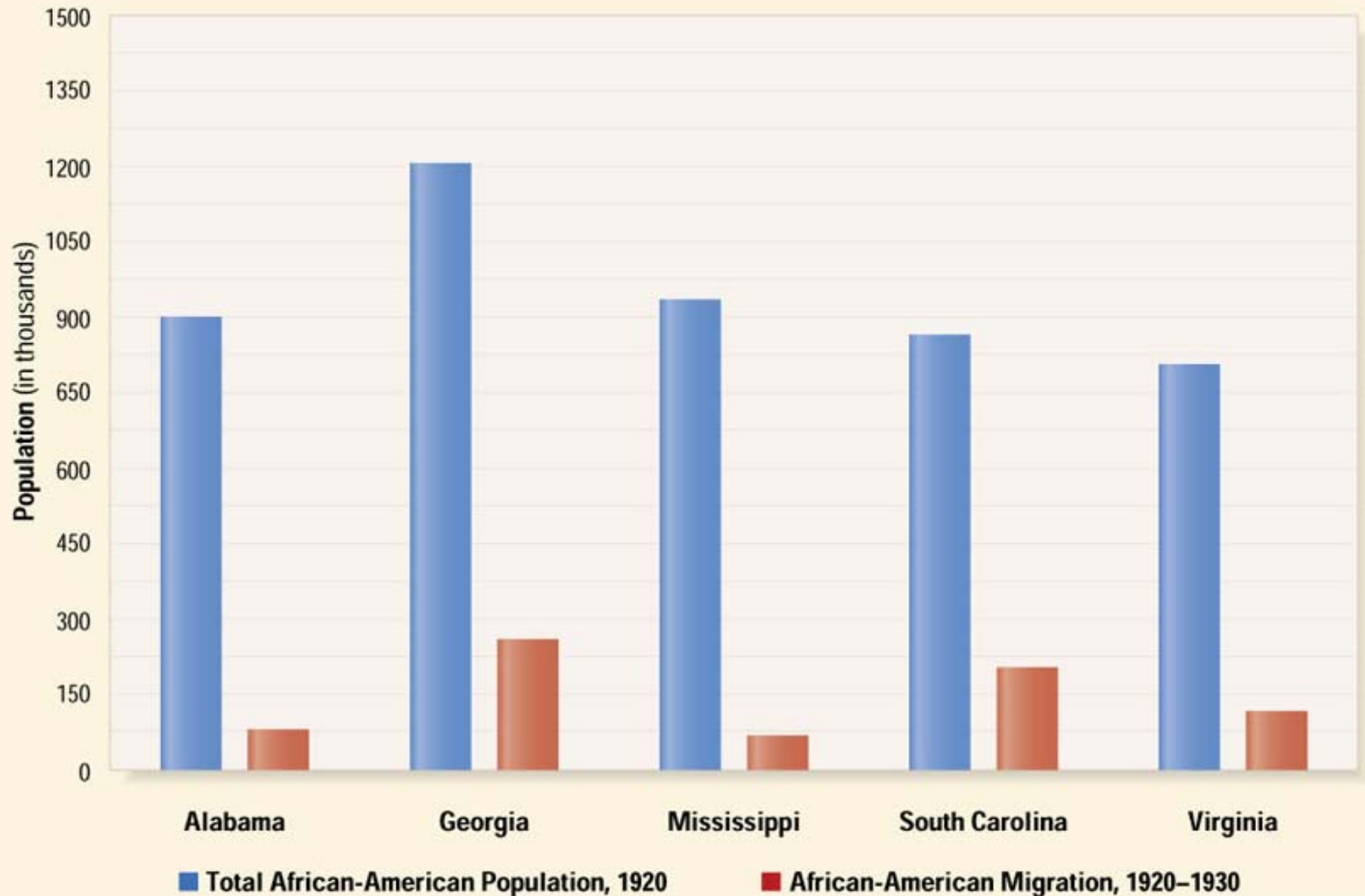
African-American Voices in the 1920s

The Move North

- 1910–1920, Great Migration of thousands of African Americans
 - move from South to Northern cities
- By 1920, over 40% of African Americans live in cities
- Racial tensions escalate in North; about 25 urban race riots in 1919
- African-Americans continue to migrate in large numbers in 1920s *[Visual]*

CH 13-4 THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

African-American Migration from the South, 1920–1930



African-American Voices in the 1920s

African-American Goals

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
 - protests racial violence
- NAACP leader **James Weldon Johnson** fights for civil rights legislation *[Visual]*
- NAACP antilynching campaign leads to drop in number of lynchings

CH 13-4 THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE



James Weldon Johnson, writer and educator.

African-American Voices in the 1920s

Marcus Garvey and the UNIA

- **Marcus Garvey** founds Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
 - believes African Americans should build separate society
- Garvey promotes black pride, black businesses, return to Africa



The Harlem Renaissance Flowers in New York

African-American Writers

- Harlem world's largest black urban area; people from U.S., Caribbean
- **Harlem Renaissance**—African-American literary, artistic movement
 - express pride in African-American experience
- **Claude McKay**'s poems urge blacks to resist prejudice, discrimination
- **Langston Hughes**'s poems describe difficult lives of working class
 - many written in jazz, blues tempo
- **Zora Neale Hurston** shows folkways, values of poor, Southern blacks

The Harlem Renaissance Flowers in New York

African-American Performers

- Influence, popularity of Harlem Renaissance go beyond black audience
- Musical comedy *Shuffle Along* launches movement
 - is popular with white audiences
- African-American performers win large followings
- **Paul Robeson**—major dramatic actor in London, New York *[Visual]*

CH 13-4 THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE



The Harlem Renaissance Flowers in New York

African Americans and Jazz

- Jazz born in early 20th century New Orleans, spreads across U.S. *[Visual]*
- Trumpeter **Louis Armstrong** makes personal expression key part of jazz
 - most influential musician in jazz history
- **Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington**—jazz pianist, orchestra leader
 - one of America’s greatest composers
- Cab Calloway, Armstrong popularize scat (improvised jazz singing)
- **Bessie Smith**—blues singer, perhaps best vocalist of decade

CH 13-4 THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE



**Thanks for your
attention!**