An African-American Legacy: The Harlem Renaissance

Music in Harlem, Music in Your Community

Skills/Learning Goals:
- Learning about the history of Harlem through arts and culture
- Developing an understanding of a community’s characteristics.

Big Idea:
- Great art can emerge from the unique blend of voices, ideas, and experiences found in a community.

Preparing for the Video:
- Spend some time learning about a community that is not your own and revisit how your special places continue to shape who you are as an individual.

Using this Video:
- Jot down some fun facts about Harlem and your own community. You will have an opportunity to explore both through music.

Pause 1:
- Teaching Artists Arnold Greenwich and Chris Gross discuss their communities in Harlem and Iowa. What are some similarities or differences between them and your own community and how might that is reflected through arts and culture?

Pause 2:
- Arnold and Chris discuss the many styles of music that influence them. What are the styles that influence you and what are their characteristics? Who introduced these styles to you?

Extension:
- In Arnold’s description of Still’s Lenox Avenue, he talks about the blend of musical styles, from blues to jazz to orchestral music. What are other popular genres that have a similar blend? Identify them and investigate their history.