

## The Roaring Twenties

### Section 3



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. Radio and movies linked the country in a national culture.
2. Jazz and blues music became popular nationwide.
3. Writers and artists introduced new styles and artistic ideas.

### Key Terms and People

**talkie** motion picture with sound

**Jazz Age** name given to the 1920s due to the popularity of jazz music

**Harlem Renaissance** period of African American artistic accomplishment in New York City

**Langston Hughes** poet and writer who wrote about African American life

**Lost Generation** writers in the 1920s who criticized American society

**expatriates** people who live outside their home country

**Georgia O'Keeffe** innovative artist famous for her detailed drawings of flowers

### Academic Vocabulary

**innovation** a new idea or way of doing something

## Section Summary

### A NATIONAL CULTURE

The radio helped build a new national culture during the 1920s. People from around the country were able to share common experiences. Radio networks broadcast the same programs to hundreds of stations at a time.

Movies also opened up a new, exciting means of entertainment and adventure. Fans were thrilled by the first movie with sound, or **talkie**. The first talkie, *The Jazz Singer*, appeared in 1927. Movie stars became heroes to many millions of Americans.

Other people became heroes as well. Fans packed baseball stadiums and other athletic events. Pilots became nationally known as they broke flight records. New ideas such as psychoanalysis entered popular culture.

**How did radio change the ability of people to share experiences?**

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**Circle the name of the first talkie.**

Section 3, *continued***POPULAR MUSIC**

The booming economy and new forms of entertainment caused the decade to be named the Roaring Twenties. Another nickname was the **Jazz Age** because jazz music became so popular.

Jazz developed in New Orleans as a blend of African American spirituals, European rhythms, and West African rhythms. African Americans brought this music north during the Great Migration. Blues music was born in the rural South during slavery and became popular in the 1920s. Both jazz and the blues were musical **innovations** that remain popular today.

**WRITERS AND ARTISTS**

Writers and artists also changed American culture. The **Harlem Renaissance** included writers **Langston Hughes** and Claude McKay. They told of African American life in stories, poems, and plays.

Many American writers told of their experiences in the United States and around the world. Young writers of the **Lost Generation** expressed feelings of separation from American society. Some of them formed a community of **expatriates** in Paris. Lost Generation writers included Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Another was Sinclair Lewis, who became the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Painters like **Georgia O’Keeffe** experimented with new styles and ways to express themselves. Meanwhile, architects were designing skyscrapers that still define American city skylines today.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Write to Explore** Imagine that you have just moved to a city in the 1920s. Write a short letter to a friend telling how life in the city is different from rural life.

What kinds of music were the sources of jazz music?

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In what segment of the American population did many of the music innovations of the 1920s originate?

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Why would many writers of the Lost Generation become expatriates?

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