1  Mass Media and the Jazz Age
   TEKS
   1(A), 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(E)

2  Listen
   Before 1920, different regions of the United States held different cultures, attitudes, and interests. This began to change in the 1920s when for the first time, people around the nation saw the same films, heard the same radio broadcasts, and read the same news sources. Mass media, the use of print and broadcast methods to communicate to large numbers of people, produced a national culture. Radio became a popular way to hear music and listen to news, sports, and comedy shows.

3  Listen
   Radio contributed to the craze for jazz music, a new music that had its roots in the African American music of the South and features improvisation and syncopation. Americans saw this free music as a symbol of the times, and the 1920s adopted the title of the Jazz Age.

4  Listen
   American artists and writers continued to show American life realistically, recording the culture. Some writers rejected the spirit of the Jazz Age and became known as the Lost Generation. These writers and artists rejected materialistic values and scorned popular American culture. Most of them settled in Paris.

5  Listen
   For African Americans, New York City’s Harlem became their cultural center as African American writers and poets entered the literary scene in the movement known as the Harlem Renaissance. Writers like Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and Alain Locke wrote about the African American experience. Their writings inspired young blacks and contributed to the overall American culture.

6  Mass Media and the Jazz Age
   Begin Taking Notes
   1. How did the mass media help create common cultural experiences?
   2. Why are the 1920s called the Jazz Age, and how did the jazz spirit affect the arts?
   3. How did the writers of the Lost Generation respond to the popular culture?
   4. What subjects did the Harlem Renaissance writers explore?

7  The Mass Media
   Growth of the mass media, instruments for communicating with large numbers of people, helped form a common American popular culture during the 1920s.
   The popularity of motion pictures grew throughout the 1920s; “talkies,” or movies with sound, were introduced in 1927.

8  The Mass Media
   Newspapers grew in both size and circulation. Tabloids, compact papers which replaced serious news with entertainment, became popular. Magazines also became widely read.
   Although radio barely existed as a mass medium until the 1920s, it soon enjoyed tremendous growth. Networks linked many stations together, sending the same music, news, and commercials to Americans around the country.
9 The Jazz Age

- Jazz, a style of music that grew out of the African American music of the South, became highly popular during the 1920s. Characterized by improvisation and syncopation, jazz became so strongly linked to the culture of the 1920s that the decade came to be known as the Jazz Age.
- Harlem, a district in Manhattan, New York, became a center of jazz music. Flappers and others heard jazz in clubs and dance halls; the Charleston, considered by some to be a wild and reckless dance, embodied the Jazz Age.
- Jazz pioneers Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong made important contributions to jazz music.

10 The Jazz Spirit

11 The Harlem Renaissance

- In addition to being a center of jazz, Harlem emerged as an overall cultural center for African Americans. A literary awakening took place in Harlem in the 1920s that was known as the Harlem Renaissance.
- Expressing the joys and challenges of being African American, writers such as James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, and Langston Hughes enriched African American culture as well as American culture as a whole.

12 Mass Media and the Jazz Age—Assessment

Which of these best describes how the growth of mass media affected American culture?

- (A) It allowed local cultural traditions to flourish.
- (B) It made learning the Charleston easier.
- (C) It spread the work of Lost Generation writers.
- (D) It helped create a common American popular culture.

What was the Harlem Renaissance?

- (A) A style of jazz music
- (B) An African American literary awakening
- (C) An increase in the popularity of newspapers and magazines
- (D) A type of jazz club found in Harlem

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14 Work

Look over your notes from today.

1. Answer the 4 questions from today's lecture.
2. In five sentences, write a brief summary of what we went over in class today. Use the highlighted key terms in your summary!

- Title the paper the same as the Lecture Notes.
- Make sure to put your Name, Date, and Period in the upper right hand corner of your page.
- Turn this in at the beginning of class tomorrow—put it in the hand-in/collection basket.
- Worth 25 out of 100 points for this week's Daily grade.