

1920s picture review

Station 1: Great Migration/ Harlem Renaissance/ Jazz Age

“In the early twentieth century, African Americans left the rural South in a mass exodus called the [Great Migration](#). These migrants were seeking opportunity – and fleeing [Jim Crow](#).

A black-owned newspaper called the [Chicago Defender](#) helped to inspire many of them. In a series of articles over several years, the *Defender* and its publisher, Robert Abbott – who had himself come to Chicago from Georgia – championed the North as a “land of hope” where African Americans could pursue a better life.

By 1920, 50,000 black migrants had arrived in Chicago. But [while Chicago did offer opportunity](#), the American dream remained segregated here in 1920. African Americans were limited to living, shopping, and attending church in a small area of the South Side called “the Black Belt” that initially stretched along South State Street from 22nd Street to 31st Street.

The growing black population needed goods and services denied to them in other parts of the city, and from this need emerged a great “[Black Metropolis](#)” – a thriving center of black art, culture, and commerce that was ultimately called “Bronzeville” to reflect the color of its inhabitants’ skin.

With retail stores, restaurants, theaters, nightclubs, and the first black-owned insurance company in the North, Bronzeville reigned as the place to be for black Chicago.

At the [Regal Theater](#) on 47th Street, notable entertainers such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington performed frequently, and Nat “King” Cole got his start. Other notable Bronzeville residents included boxer Jack Johnson, gospel legend Mahalia Jackson, journalist and civil rights activist Ida B. Wells, the writer Gwendolyn Brooks, and many others.”

- *Chicago’s South Side*. WTTW Chicago. 2015.



1. The beginning of this article talks about the Great Migration. What were the push/pull factors involved with that, again?
2. So, African Americans were moving North and West to places like Chicago during the Great Migration, but it turned out that life wasn't much better in Chicago. Why?
3. Although we're still talking about Chicago in this article, there is some mention of visual artists, jazz musicians, and writers; the same individuals that were involved in the Harlem Renaissance. What was that (the Harlem Renaissance) all about?
4. The statue at the bottom of the page is one that is found in Chicago and is called, "The Great Migration." How do you think the statue represents the ideas of the Great Migration?

Station 2: “The New Negro”/ Marcus Garvey

1. What did Marcus Garvey and his UNIA organization have in common with the ideas behind “the New Negro”?

Station 3: 1920s Connections

1. **Economy to Social and Cultural values:** The use of the assembly line in making cars changed the game in 1920s America. It allowed more cars to be made, which lowered the price, and allowed middle-class Americans the opportunity to buy one. This was one of many new inventions that could be bought that be bought be the average American. How did these inventions change the lifestyles of these Americans? (hint: Did they have to spend as much time getting from place to place or doing chores?)
2. How did the companies get Americans to buy all of this new “stuff” even when they couldn’t afford to pay for the whole cost? (This is especially important when it comes to the stock market).
3. Take a look at each of the following terms:
 - Professional sports
 - Jazz music/ movies
 - Flappers
 - Scopes Trial
 - Amelia Earhart/ Charles Lindburgh
 - Immigration Acts of 1924
 - Prohibition

Why were **each** of these events important to the 1920s?