Harlem Renaissance Webquest

Directions: Your task is to be able to thoroughly respond to the following webquest questions about the Harlem Renaissance. You have two options for how to answer these webquest questions:

1. Complete the following webquest using the links provided and carefully document your answers in your own words.

OR

2. You may conduct your own research to answer the webquest questions; however, you must provide a list of the websites you used to guide your research (Remember what we learned about valid sources).

PART 1: WELCOME TO THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE:

View the following website to answer the questions: http://www.ushistory.org/us/46e.asp

1. What is another name for the Harlem Renaissance? (this came from the pretest)

2. What contributed to the beginnings of this movement?

3. What types of laws actually disfranchised African-Americans after the Reconstruction?

4. What were some common themes within the movement? Harlem Renaissance Info

5. List at LEAST 5 major authors, musicians, or political leaders associated with this movement.

PART 2: POETRY IN MOTION: Langston Hughes was a famous Harlem Renaissance poet. Like others, he developed themes that connected the African-American heritage to the present. The website for this activity is:
1. How old was Langston Hughes when he wrote this poem?

2. What rivers does Langston Hughes mention and how do they connect the past to the present?

3. Think: How does Langston Hughes’ verbal reading of the poem affect its overall tone?

PART 3: ALL THAT JAZZ MUSIC: During the Harlem Renaissance, jazz and blues music spread from New Orleans to Harlem and all throughout the country. At this website, Ron Scott writes: 

This improvisational music called jazz is a unique sound, colored with political and social ramifications, weaved with Black cultural threads. It's the voice of the ancestors who speak through these great master musicians and the younger generation.

View http://jazzmuseuminharlem.org/jazznotes.html to discover:

1. Who are three famous male and female jazz legends? (Hint - one used to play the trumpet in the picture that is now on display in the Smithsonian.)

2. What themes about the African-American heritage resonate from the rhythms of jazz?

3. Think: In your own opinion, why might a jazz museum be important for current and future generations?

PART 4: DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY: Many clubs such as the Cotton Club featured talented African-American musicians in Harlem.

View the Cotton Club Information (a. Password: west66108 b. Search “Cotton Club c. Click 2nd option) to discover:
1. Who were some famous customers?

2. What types of patrons were permitted to dance in this club?

3. Why did the owners choose this name for their club?

4. Think: If you were an African-American musician, how might you feel in this club after you had just finished playing your set?

PART 5: EXPRESSION THROUGH ART: Like the music and literature of the Harlem Renaissance, visual artists painted or sculpted a rich variety of interpretations about African-American culture and heritage.

View [http://www.iniva.org/harlem/home.html](http://www.iniva.org/harlem/home.html) to discover:

1. Who were some famous artists of the Harlem Renaissance?

2. Think: Compare and contrast your two favorite pieces of art from this website. How were these examples representative for the period?

Think on this:
- What is a renaissance? What is the Harlem Renaissance and what factors caused it to occur?
- How did literature and the arts reflect the African American experience during the Harlem Renaissance?
- How does art reveal social and personal identity? Provide specific examples and authors/artists to support your answer.