

## Singer/Musician

Name: Billie Holiday



Major Contributions:

Created many songs which included, "God Bless the Child", "Don't Explain," etc. Billie Holiday also made a big hit which included, "What a Little Moonlight Can Do".

She was one of the first Black women to work with a white orchestra. Helped shape African American culture and identity.

What modern artist could you compare them to today and?

A modern artist I could compare Billie Holiday to would probably be Beyonce as she made many great hits.

Describe them using three words

- Inspiring
- Strong
- Loud

What made you select this Artist?

This artist used music to cope with all the racism and spread positivity among people.

## Writer

Name: Claude McKay



Major Contributions:

Claude McKay was a Jamaican poet and was known for his novel, "If We Must Die". Claude McKay helped with African American identity through his literature and spread the idea of African American culture.

What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?

A modern artist I could compare Claude McKay to would be Toni Morrison since she was also an African American novelist.

Describe them using three words

- Motivational
- Powerful
- Compassionate

What made you select this Artist?

This artist spread African American culture and identity through his literature which gives recognition to the African American community.

**African Americans that shaped  
the 'Golden Age' of Black  
culture known as the Harlem  
Renaissance**

## Artist

Name: Aaron Douglas

Major Contributions:

Aaron Douglas initiated the concept of an idea that he coined the "New Negro" it was used to be a reinvention of African Americans from the terrible past and tribulations that involved slavery. Aaron Douglas created several paintings to describe African Americans. He created murals on buildings which still today exist.

What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?

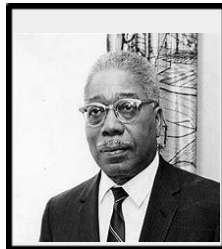
I can compare this artist to Jacob Lawrence as his work was inspired by Aaron Douglas.

Describe them using three words

- Powerful
- Creative
- Brave

What made you select this Artist?

I selected this Artist because he created many paintings and murals around the city of New York which gave attention to African Americans.



## Stage Performer

Name: Paul Robeson

Major Contributions: Paul Robeson was an actor, singer an activist and much more. He had many accomplishments when it came to political and social issues. Paul Robeson helped African American culture and identity.

What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?

I would compare Paul Robeson to Denzel Washington. Denzel Washington was an inspiring actor to many people and the African American community.

Describe them using three words

- Smart
- Motivating
- Powerful

What made you select this Artist?

This artist had a lot of influence when it came to the Harlem Renaissance as they helped the African Community identity and culture.



**Singer/Musician**

**Name:** Bill Robinson

**Major Contributions:** African American tap dancer, performed on stage in both races (Black and White).

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?** Basically, any artist because most artists today sing and dance while performing.

**Describe them using three words**

- Talented
- Inspiring
- Iconic

**What made you select this Artist?**

He made it to Hollywood to perform on stage which is an inspiration to African Americans and other races.

**Writer**

**Name:** Claude McKay

**Major Contributions:** Was the first to travel to United States to attend college.

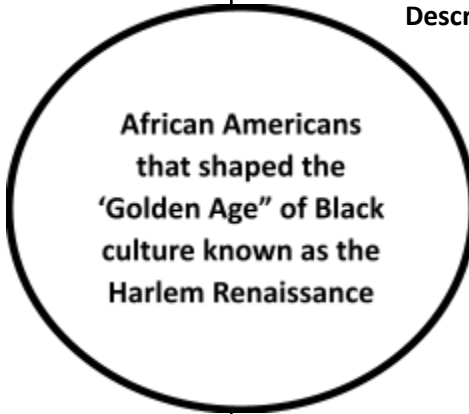
**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?** People who are serious about attaining something.

**Describe them using three words**

- Smart
- Brave
- Amazing Writer

**What made you select this Artist?**

He became a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance.



**Artist**

**Name:** Charles White

**Major Contributions:** Contribution of the negro to democracy in America.

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?** People that contribute to the African American democracy.

**Describe them using three words**

- Talented
- Inspiring
- Vocal

**What made you select this Artist?**

He was an American artist known for chronicling African American subjects.

**Stage Performer**

**Name:** Countee Cullen

**Major Contributions:** Contributed greatly to African Americans poets.

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?** Anyone who contributed greatly to the Arts.

**Describe them using three words**

- Talented
- Representative
- Honoring

**What made you select this Artist?**

His life is based on everything he does, like he keeps it real.

## Singer/Musician

Name: James Weldon Johnson



**Major Contributions:** He was a composer who wrote the lyrics for "Lift Every Voice and Sing" known as the Black national anthem and was also a civil rights activist.

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?**

Pharrell Williams is an artist/song writer and a man of many talents from producing to writing songs.

**Describe them using three words**

- Talented
- Educated
- Leader

**What made you select this Artist?**

He is an African American male that had been making music for a long time.

African Americans  
that shaped the  
'Golden Age' of  
Black culture  
known as the  
Harlem  
Renaissance

## Writer

Name: Alain LeRoy Locke



**Major Contributions:** Locke is best known as the creator of the philosophical concept New Negro which would initiate the Harlem Renaissance. Known as the "father of the Harlem Renaissance."

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?**

Azealia Banks because as Locke she is also open about her sexual orientation as a bisexual and lets it be known in her music.

**Describe them using three words**

- Brave
- Smart
- Powerful

**What made you select this Artist?**

Because he was the second African American to receive a PHD from Harvard.

## Artist



Name: Aaron Douglas

**Major Contributions:** Aaron Douglas was one of the most popular artists during the Harlem Renaissance, putting African American life and struggles into his art.

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?** Kerry James Marshall because is a Black artist that also makes his painting about the black struggles.

**Describe them using three words**

- Powerful
- Meaningful
- Talented

**What made you select this Artist?** He was one of the most popular artist during the Harlem Renaissance spreading the culture and bring awareness.

## Stage Performer

Name: Billie Holiday



**Major Contributions:** Was a very well know jazz and swing singer during the Harlem Renaissance

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?** Aretha Franklin because even though she was born a little later she still lived with the struggle of being African American and both had amazing voices.

**Describe them using three words**

- Inspirational
- Meaningful
- Leader

**What made you select this Artist?** She was one of the most popular singers during the Harlem Renaissance for her amazing voice and impact to the world of music.

### Singer/Musician

Name: Chick Webb

**Major Contributions:** Helped popularize swing music and big bands

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?** A modern artist that can compare to Chick Webb is Taylor Hawkins because they both are one of the best in their respective time periods.

**Describe them using three words**

- Outstanding
- Positive
- Lively

**What made you select this Artist?**

The way his music is very upbeat and happy and makes you want to dance



### Writer

Name: William Grant Still

**Major Contributions:** Known as "Dean of Afro-American Composers and produced the New York City Opera

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?** Danny Elfman is like William Grant Still because they both composed great scores that really influenced music.

**Describe them using three words**

- Resourceful
- Flashy
- Artistic

**What made you select this Artist?**

I selected this artist because he composed great music for his people to listen to in his time.



African Americans that shaped the 'Golden Age' of Black culture known as the Harlem Renaissance

### Artist

Name: Beauford Delaney

**Major Contributions:** He changed the way people saw pictures with his form of art.

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?**

He is like Takashi Murakami with his paintings because how they use their color pallets.

**Describe them using three words**

- Creative
- Artistic
- Soulful

**What made you select this Artist?**

What made me select this artist is how he used many colors to express his point on what he was trying to say in his paintings.



### Stage Performer

Name: Fats Waller

**Major Contributions:** He was the first to master the organ and appeared in Stormy Weather (1943).

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?**

He is like John Legend the way they are both boogie-woogie style piano players.

**Describe them using three words**

- Upbeat
- Happy
- Groovy

**What made you select this Artist?**

What made me choose this artist is how he played the piano and how I could sort of dance to it.



**Singer/Musician**

**Name:** Cab Calloway



**Major Contributions:** He led one of the biggest African American bands during 1930-1940

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?**  
Janet Jackson because he brings a lot of energy with a smooth voice.

**Describe them using three words**

- Talented
- Vocal
- Smart

**What made you select this Artist?**  
I found his music interesting.

**Writer**



**Name:** Zora Neale Hurston

**Major Contributions:**  
She is a scholar and her novel Their Eyes Were Watching God because it's her most famous one.

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?**  
Maya Angelou, they both have a way with words  
Describe them using three words

- Passionate
- Strong
- Brave

**What made you select this Artist?**  
I thought she looked like a kind soul.



**Artist**

**Name:** Hale Woodruff

**Major Contributions:**  
His murals were very famous

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?**  
A Buffalo artist named Chris Piontkowski because he painted a mural in the Black Rock area of Buffalo to celebrate culture and diversity.

**Describe them using three words**

- Unique Vision
- Strong Color Choices
- Talented

**What made you select this Artist?**  
His paintings caught my eye because I really liked the story he was telling with them.



**Stage Performer**

**Name:** Fats Waller

**Major Contributions:**  
He was a talented jazz pianist

**What modern artist could you compare them to today and why?**  
Count Basie was comparable to him because they both were jazz pianists and had similar interests.

**Describe them using three words**

- Remembered as a genial clown
- Talented
- One of the greatest

**What made you select this Artist?**  
His welcoming smile

