

LANGSTON HUGHES



Biography of: Include an illustration

BIO SNAPSHOT
List several facts about this person:

CONTRIBUTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS
List several contributions and achievements of this person:

QUOTES
Choose one quote said by this person and write it below:

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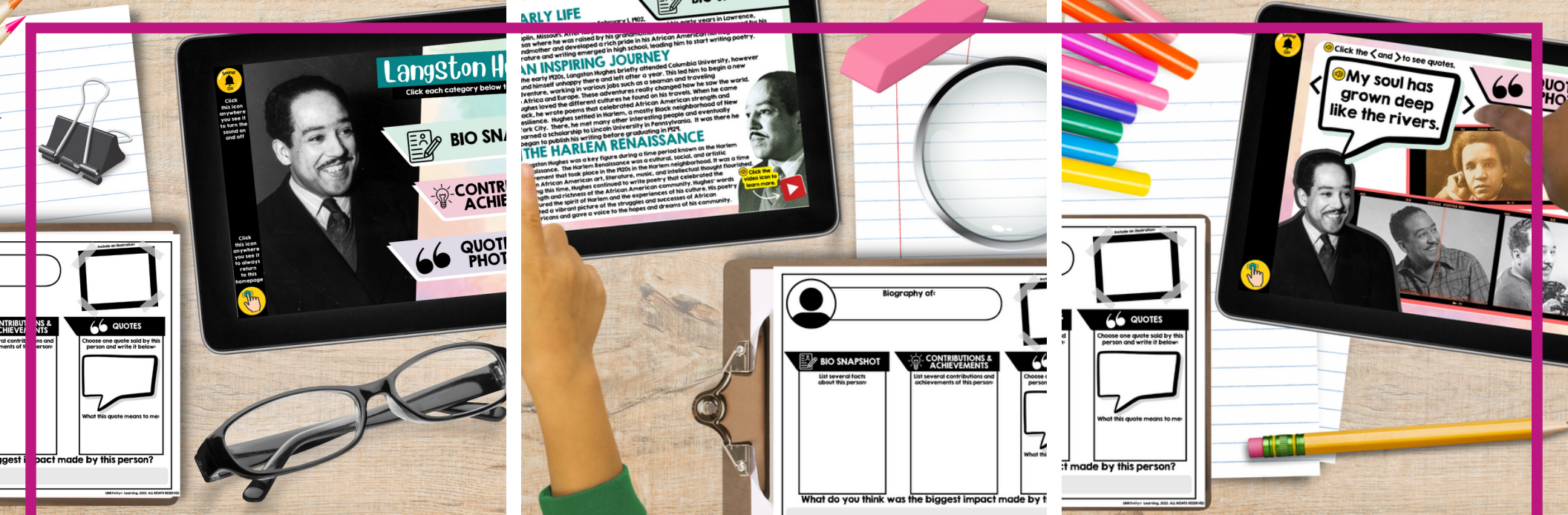
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Langston Hughes (1902-1967) was a pioneering American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist during the Harlem Renaissance—an intellectual and cultural revival of African American arts in the 1920s and 1930s. Known for his insightful and impactful works, Hughes explored the complexities of the African American experience, often addressing themes of identity, racial injustice, and the struggles of the working class. Langston Hughes left a lasting legacy as a key figure in African American literature, using his art to advocate for change and celebrate the richness of African American culture. In this Mini-Biography LINKtivity on Langston Hughes, students will learn about Hughes’ early life, his works of literature, and his impact on African American culture.



More Sample Slides

Click each lightbulb below to learn about this figure's contributions and achievements.


CONTRIBUTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Langston Hughes is widely celebrated for his writing and unique genre of jazz poetry. In fact, Hughes wrote the first jazz poetry and played a key role in shaping the genre. In his poems, like "The Weary Blues," he used words in a special way, had a certain beat, and took inspiration from blues and jazz music. This made a new way of writing for African American literature. He wrote characters in his stories and plays that felt real and like people you could know. These characters showed the different lives of Black Americans.

Click each lightbulb below to learn about this figure's contributions and achievements.

CONTRIBUTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Hughes was an outspoken advocate for civil rights. His essay, "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain," encouraged Black artists to embrace their unique culture, and he used his writing to shed light on the racial injustices faced by African Americans. Hughes also supported and participated in civil rights movements and events, working toward equality and justice for everyone.



Click the < and > to see quotes.

QUOTES & PHOTOS

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.



Click the < and > to see quotes.

QUOTES & PHOTOS

Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.



EARLY LIFE

Langston Hughes was born on February 1, 1902, in Joplin, Missouri. After his parents' divorce, he spent his early years in Lawrence, Kansas where he was raised by his grandmother. Hughes was deeply influenced by his grandmother and developed a rich pride in his African American heritage. His love for literature and writing emerged in high school, leading him to start writing poetry.


AN INSPIRING JOURNEY

In the early 1920s, Langston Hughes briefly attended Columbia University, however found himself unhappy there and left after a year. This led him to begin a new adventure, working in various jobs such as a seaman and traveling to Africa and Europe. These adventures really changed how he saw the world. Hughes loved the different cultures he found on his travels. When he came back, he wrote poems that celebrated African American strength and resilience. Hughes settled in Harlem, a mostly Black neighborhood of New York City. There, he met many other interesting people and eventually earned a scholarship to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. It was there he began to publish his writing before graduating in 1929.

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Langston Hughes was a key figure during a time period known as the Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural, social, and artistic movement that took place in the 1920s in the Harlem neighborhood. It was a time when African American art, literature, music, and intellectual thought flourished. During this time, Hughes continued to write poetry that celebrated the strength and richness of the African American community. Hughes' words captured the spirit of Harlem and the experiences of his culture. His poetry painted a vibrant picture of the struggles and successes of African Americans and gave a voice to the hopes and dreams of his community.

Click the video icon to learn more!



This LINKtivity is provided with

AUDIO SUPPORT



**Perfect for English
language learners or
students who could use
a little extra support!**



Student & Teacher Resources

Recording Sheet for LINKtivity

Lesson Plan

LESSON

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

What is a biography?
Who is (specific person) and what makes him/her unique?



Note: This lesson plan can be used with any mini-biography LINKtivity.

Standards Covered

CCRA.R.10

Materials Needed

Biography LINKtivity®
KWL student sheet
Biography student sheet (optional)
Chart paper/markers OR SMARTboard/Whiteboard

Teacher Preparation

Preview the mini-biography(ies) that you have selected for your students. Plan for how you will share the LINKtivity with students (ex. assign link in Google Classroom, prepare QR codes, etc). Prepare a KWL chart on chart paper or SMARTboard/whiteboard. Print the KWL and biography student sheets.

Lesson Introduction (5-10 min.)

- Introduce the essential questions.
- Introduce the person(s) your students will be exploring and provide each student with a **KWL student sheet**.
- **ASK:** What do you know about this person? What do you want to know about this person?
- Have students complete the first two columns of the chart. Note: If your whole class is exploring the same person, you can complete this chart together on a SMARTboard/whiteboard. If each student is completing a different person, have them complete a KWL for their specific person.

Lesson Activity (20 mins)

Have students complete a **Biography LINKtivity**, either one assigned to them or of their own selection. While navigating the LINKtivity, students have the option to complete the **biography student sheet**.

Optional Extension Activities

- Take virtual field trips to museums, historical sites, or places related to the person's life using a tool like Google Earth.
- Have students record a podcast episode about their person.
- Host a wax museum event where students dress up and take on the persona of their chosen individual to educate others.

Lesson Conclusion (2-5 min.)

Review essential questions and have students share their responses in light of what they have learned. Have students complete the final column of their KWL chart (what I learned).

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What this quote means to me:

What do you think was the biggest impact made by this person?

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Also available in Google Slides!

