

The Whites Invade Harlem

By
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During the American Depression of the 1930's, unemployed writers and artists were employed by the Federal Writer's Project sponsored by the U.S. government. The article, *The Whites Invade Harlem*, is a primary document that was written to record the events of the Harlem Renaissance.

Answer the following questions after reading the article.

1. Read the first four paragraphs of this report. What attitudes did the whites have of the Black population living in Harlem? Give at least two examples.
2. In paragraph five, the author says, "...dragging rare specimens of the genus *Homo Africanus* downtown for exhibition before their friends." How do you interpret what was going on?
3. The first five paragraphs give the reader a feel for the attitude of the white society women towards the African-American (Negro at that time). What picture do the words "primitive" (§ 2), "missionary work" (§ 3), "trusting" (§ 4), tell you of the attitudes of these women towards the musicians, authors and artists of Harlem?
4. Do you feel that these white women made any contribution to the greater society? Explain.
5. Refer to § 4. What was the point of changing the performer's name?
6. What role did Alelia Walker, a Black millionairess, play in the Harlem Renaissance?
7. On page 3 beginning in § 4 and continuing on to page 5 § 2, there is a discussion of skin color. What was the confusion and the controversy?