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| **Duke Ellington--Cultural Ambassador** | |
| Band leader Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was a musical genius. A composer of over one thousand works and a performer, Ellington traveled all over the world with hos band. They were also featured in motion pictures made by several studios. The Valburn Collection in the Library's recorded sound archives includes eleven thousand Ellington recordings on disc. Performers like Ellington and sports greats like Jackie Robinson helped to break down barriers of racial hostility in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. In 1959, the NAACP awarded Ellington its coveted Spingarn Medal for his contribution to the African American cultural heritage. This image was taken by the famed African American photographer Gordon Parks. | [Image: Caption follows](http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/odyssey/archive/08/0811001r.jpg)  Gordon Parks. *Duke Ellington at the Hurricane Club*. New York, N.Y., May 1943. Copyprint. Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Collection, [Prints and Photographs Division](http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print). (8-11) |

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/exhibit/aopart8b.html#0811>

**Paragraph 1:** Louis Armstrong was born August 4, 1901, in one of the poorest sections of New Orleans. As a young boy he had to work selling newspapers and hard coal from a wagon to help support his mother and younger sister. He even joined a quartet of other young boys and earned a little money singing songs on the street corners for tips from people passing by. One night, when he was 12 years old, he secretly took his stepfather's gun and fired it in the air during a New Year's Eve celebration. He was promptly arrested and sent to a reform school for boys. There he was taught to play the cornet and joined the marching band, and began leading the parades. He left the school after a year, and purchased his own cornet with the help of the Karnofsky family for whom he worked, selling coal.

**Paragraph 2:**During his teen years, Louis Armstrong worked during the day and at night played his horn in night spots with local bands. He practiced hard and earned a reputation as such an excellent cornetist that he was hired to play on one of the riverboats that traveled up and down the Mississippi River. When Armstrong was 21, trumpet "King" Joe Oliver, who had once lived in New Orleans, invited him to come to Chicago to join his band. Armstrong was an immediate success in Chicago, where he later formed his own group, The Hot Five, and made some of the most famous jazz recordings ever produced. He began playing the trumpet in such new and creative ways that he developed a brand new style of jazz performance, where the soloist was featured. He became the first great jazz soloist.

**Paragraph 3:** After his first two years in Chicago, Louis Armstrong joined the band of Fletcher Henderson, one of the great band leaders in New York. Armstrong had a great influence on the New York musicians; he taught them how to "swing." All of the trumpet players wanted to sound and "be like Louis." But he also had another talent: he was a very good singer, although he was not allowed to sing in Henderson's band. He went back to Chicago to work and recorded with the Hot Five. He returned to New York and began to sing on stage in addition to playing his trumpet. His first big hit as a singer was in the Broadway musical, Hot Chocolates, where he showed that a popular song could be used as a jazz composition, too. This was something else brand new that Louis Armstrong introduced to the musical world.

Text**Paragraph 4:**Louis Armstrong was the most gifted and influential trumpet soloist in the history of the instrument. His originality was of such quality that his playing can be recognized easily if you listen for the following things: 1) His big, beautiful tone and the way he projected it above everyone else in the band; 2) his soaring high notes--he played the trumpet higher than it had ever been played before; 3) his vibrato, or trembling sounds; 4) the way he could hold high notes for a long time; and, (5) always, his great sense of "swing," making the music move forward.

Louis Armstrong made his first trip to England in 1932; he was the first jazz soloist to go abroad and become famous internationally. It was in England that he was given the nickname, "Satchmo," but most jazz musicians affectionately called him "Pops."

Text**Paragraph 5:**In 1964, Louis Armstrong's recording of this song was the number one best-seller in the country, and the biggest hit of his career. This was two years before he was in the movie of the same name with Barbra Streisand. Louis Armstrong made many TV appearances, and appeared in thirty-some Hollywood movies; he was the first African American to be featured with white actors. He had popularized scat singing, singing without words, in jazz many years before and was a master of phrasing and rhythm. In fact, his trumpet playing was a lot like his singing: it had vibrato; shakes; a relaxed, mellow quality; and the ability to hit the right note at the right time. His combination of singing a song and then playing his trumpet made him the leading solo entertainer in the world.

<http://www.smithsonianjazz.org/class/armstrong/la_match.asp>

**Paragraph 1**

"My mother would say, 'Edward, you are blessed.' Do I believe that I am blessed? Of course I do! My mother told me so, many times, and when she did it was always quietly, confidently."  
--Duke Ellington

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was born in Washington, D.C., April 29, 1899. He was nicknamed "Duke" by a junior high school friend because of the stylish way in which he dressed and the proud way he carried himself. His parents encouraged him to take piano lessons when he was seven years old, and his parents took him to two church services every Sunday. He had a younger sister and grandparents whom he also loved and respected, and developed strong family values. Duke Ellington grew up proud of his African American heritage, which he expressed in much of the music he would write later on, and in the song, *My Mother, My Father* (*Heritage*).

Text**Paragraph 2**

"Jazz is a music that came out of Africa with very deep African roots."  
--Duke Ellington

"The best records of Duke Ellington can be listened to again and again because they are not just decorations of a familiar shape but a new arrangement of shapes."  
--Constant Lambert, critic

Young Duke Ellington studied harmony with a local music teacher during his high school years, and developed his piano skills playing for dances and parties. He organized his first band and became popular by supplying the new "jazz" music for society functions around town. But New York was the capital of the music world, and that is where he moved in 1923. Soon he caught on there as a promising young musician. His big break came in 1927 when his orchestra of twelve musicians opened at the Cotton Club, a famous Harlem nightclub, with "jungle" decorations and southern plantation scenery. The Cotton Club admitted only white audiences, and they were entertained by African American performers.

Years later, Duke Ellington wrote *Ko-Ko* to the memory of African American slaves in New Orleans, Louisiana, who would gather in a large area called Place Congo to sing, dance and play instruments in large circles, called "rings." In *Ko-Ko* you will hear some of the "wah-wah" sounds the Ellington band first became famous for at the Cotton Club.

Text**Paragraph 3:**

"What distinguishes Ellington's best creations. . .are their moments of total uniqueness and originality."  
--Gunther Schuller, composer and conductor

Duke Ellington left the Cotton Club in 1931 and began a career of traveling that took him millions of miles all over the world. His band had become famous after being heard all over the country on the radio, an invention growing in popularity. He was now ready to start writing in a variety of styles. *Mood Indigo* is one of Duke Ellington's most original pieces. It is a **tone poem**, a composition that describes a "mood" or a feeling in an imaginative way. He used his imagination to achieve a dreamy, moody effect with the following unusual trio: a trombone playing high notes; a clarinet playing low notes, and trumpet with a mute in the middle.

Text**Paragraph 4:**

"Our major effort has been to make the symphony orchestra swing, which everybody says can't be done, but I think we managed to do it very well."  
--Duke Ellington

By the middle of the 1930s, Duke Ellington had become a celebrity, and his band was famous, playing music people loved to dance to, the new music called "swing." He had made movies in Hollywood and traveled to Europe, where he was a great success. In fact, his music was often taken more seriously abroad than in America, which favored his dance band music over his other compositions. One of his most popular songs, from 1932, was *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*. This was one of the first times the word "swing" had been used in the title of a popular song, and it became the unofficial theme of the "Swing Era," a time in the 1930s when the big dance bands were as popular as rock bands were later in the 20th century. One of Duke Ellington's most popular singers was Ivie Anderson, who was with him when the band made its first trip abroad. Follow the words to the verse and sing along with Ivie Anderson.

"It don't mean a thing, if it ain't got that swing.  
Do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah.  
It don't mean a thing, all you got to do is sing.  
Do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah.  
It makes no difference if its sweet or hot;  
Just give that rhythm everything you got.  
It don't mean a thing, if it ain't got that swing.  
Do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah, do-wah."

Text**Paragraph 5:**

"Music to me is a sound sensation. . . . It takes me to new places and experiences. It brings me invitations to the most interesting occasions in. . Africa, Asia. . . . . I get to smell things in India I couldn't smell anywhere else. . . . I hear distant drums in Africa. . . . ."  
--Duke Ellington

After World War II, most of the big bands dissolved, but Duke Ellington kept his orchestra together. In the 1960s he toured Europe, the Far East, the Near East and other places for the State Department as a kind of goodwill ambassador. When they returned home after a visit to India in 1963, he and Billy Strayhorn, his hugely talented arranger-composer, wrote *The Far East Suite*, a collection of pieces that portrayed their impressions of the places they visited. One of the pieces was called Agra. Agra is a city in India where an emperor in the 15th century built one of the most beautiful buildings in the world in memory of his wife; a white marble structure called the Taj Mahal. To give this composition a distinctive "feel," Ellington highlights the baritone saxophone of Harry Carney. The sound of this instrument is one of the characteristics that made the Duke Ellington orchestra very original and unique.

Text**Paragraph 6:**

"Because of his depth as a composer and curiosity about the world. . he is able to let us see places, people and things through the prism of jazz, and the result is music utterly original. . . with the charm and wit of the man who composed it."  
--Benny Green, saxophonist and music critic

Duke Ellington was always searching for new ideas and new ways of doing things. He and Billy Strayhorn decided to change the familiar *Nutcracker Suite* by the Russian composer Tchaikovsky into a modern and style. Listen to how a well-known classical composition can be changed into something delightfully different with the Ellington sound.

<http://www.smithsonianjazz.org/class/ellington/de_match.asp>

ARMSTRONG, (Daniel) Louis “Satchmo“

(1901-71), American jazz musician, one of the most influential figures in jazz history.Born on Aug. 4, 1901 (he claimed July 4, 1900) in New Orleans, La., he sang on the city's streets as a boy, and was introduced to various instruments, including the cornet, after he was sent (1914) to the Colored Waifs' Home (he claimed for having fired a pistol filled with blanks during New Year's celebrations). Soon after, he came under the wing of cornetist King Oliver, who was to be his chief influence. In 1917 he played with the band of trombonist “Kid“ Ory (1886-1973), and, after the Storyville entertainment district was closed down that year, he left New Orleans to perform with riverboat bands on the Mississippi. In 1922 Oliver summoned Armstrong to join him in Chicago. Oliver's Creole Band, featuring the intricate short “breaks“ of the two cornetists, became popular in Chicago clubs and through recordings. Armstrong, however, was beginning to outshine Oliver, and by mutual consent he departed in 1924 for New York, where he played in the orchestra of Fletcher Henderson and began to gain nationwide acclaim. In 1925 he returned to Chicago, where he was featured with the band of his pianist wife Lil(lian Hardin) Armstrong (1898-1971), a former Oliver bandmate. Later that year he began a famous series of recordings with his Hot Five and Hot Seven combinations, which include “Heebie Jeebies“ (1926), on which his `scat' (wordless) singing was a sensation, and “West End Blues“ (1928), on which he produced one of the most famous and influential solos in jazz history.Armstrong spent most of the rest of the 1920s in Chicago, playing with the orchestras of Erskine Tate (1895-1978), in which he switched to the trumpet, and Carroll Dickerson (1895-1957), and then leading his own band, whose musical director was the pianist Earl Hines. In 1929 he returned to New York, where he established a pattern of fronting a big band while also appearing in musical revues and, later, movies. His tours of Britain and Europe (from 1932) had an enormous impact on the world's awareness of jazz. At the same time, Armstrong had embraced the role of entertainer and featured many “novelty“ tunes, and purists suggested that he had turned his back on real jazz. The swing era brought big bands to the fore and left Armstrong in relative eclipse. In 1946, he returned to small-group jazz, forming his All-Stars band, with whom he toured for much of the rest of his life. With the All-Stars, he also recorded much popular material; late in his career he had hits with such tunes as “Mack the Knife“ (1956), “Hello, Dolly“ (1964), and “What a Wonderful World“ (1968). He died in New York City on July 6, 1971.Armstrong, whose latter-day nickname “Ambassador Satch“ indicated his stature in the music and entertainment world, was critical in the development of jazz. He advanced the technique and range of trumpet players, and by extension other instrumentalists. In doing so, he made the soloist, rather than the New Orleans-style ensemble player, supreme in jazz. And by the force of his musicality and personality, he was an important figure in making jazz popular internationally. Armstrong is the subject of many books, and he published his autobiography, Satchmo, My Life in New Orleans, in 1954. He was posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, as an early influence, in 1990.For further information on this person, see the section Armstrong, (Daniel) Louis.

Armstrong, (Daniel) Louis "Satchmo". Discovery Education  
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Discovery Education: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

ELLINGTON, Duke,

real name Edward Kennedy Ellington (1899-1974), American composer, conductor, and pianist, who was one of the most respected figures in the history of jazz, and who brought jazz into concert halls and religious services. He was born in Washington, D.C., and played professionally from the age of 17. In 1923 he moved to New York City and organized a ten-piece band. Through the 1930s and 1940s Ellington and his band, greatly enlarged, appeared in theaters and nightclubs, on the radio, and in foreign tours. In 1943 he conducted the first of nine annual concerts at Carnegie Hall, New York City.Ellington's compositions in a sense are in a kind of modified concerto form, being constructed around solo instrumental performances. They also frequently introduce vocal passages without words. His style is eclectic, combining blues, various forms of jazz, and the big-band sound of swing music. Among his most famous songs are "Mood Indigo" (1931), "Sophisticated Lady" (1933), and "Solitude" (1934). His large-scale works include Black, Brown, and Beige (1943), Liberian Suite (1948), A Concert of Sacred Music (1965), and Far East Suite (1967); and scores for the motion pictures Anatomy of a Murder (1959) and Paris Blues (1961), and for the musical comedies Beggar's Opera (1947) and Pousse-Café (1966). The theme song of Ellington's band after 1941 was "Take the `A' Train," written by his longtime associate, the lyricist and arranger Billy Strayhorn (1915-67). Ellington's autobiography is Music Is My Mistress (1973).For further information on this person, see the section Ellington, Duke.

Ellington, Duke. Discovery Education  
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Discovery Education: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

HUGHES, (James Mercer) Langston

(1902-67), American writer, born in Joplin, Mo., and educated at Lincoln University (Pennsylvania). He worked as a seaman, busboy, and teacher in several American cities and abroad. He studied in the Soviet Union and, during the Spanish civil war, was Madrid correspondent for a Baltimore periodical. As a columnist, he often expressed his views on the frustrations of blacks in the U.S. through the wry, deceptively naive humor of his most famous character, Simple (Jesse B. Semple). Simple also figured in many of Hughes's short stories, collected in The Ways of White Folks (1934), Best of Simple (1961), and other anthologies. Hughes's poetry is noted for its disregard of classical forms, frequent use of jazz and black folk rhythms, and angry protest against social injustices. It includes the collections The Weary Blues (1926), The Dream Keeper (1932), Shakespeare in Harlem (1942), and Fields of Wonder (1947). Hughes wrote the novels Not Without Laughter (1930) and Tambourines to Glory (1958) and the autobiographical The Big Sea (1940) and I Wonder as I Wander (1957).For further information on this person, see the section Hughes, (James Mercer) Langston.

Hughes, (James Mercer) Langston. Discovery Education  
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Discovery Education: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

Poet (James) Langston Hughes (1902-1967) was an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance of the early 20th century. Writing and publishing his first poems before he began his freshman year at Columbia, Hughes knew his passion was to write: "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." After transferring from Columbia to Lincoln, then by graduation, Hughes had published two volumes of poetry: "The Weary Blues"(1926) and had co-founded and co-edited with Zora Neale Hurston the literary journal, Fire! (1927). Stylistically, Hughes, like Hurston, relied on the "common, working folk" for his themes; his use of their vernacular is a signature of his poetry. Using the vernacular of everyday Harlem, Hughes created rhymes and rhythms unique to the period, thereby paralleling the rhythms of jazz. Contemporaries and mentors of Hughes' work included W.E.B. DuBois, James Weldon Johnson, and Alain Locke. Hisotiorical influences on his work included Walt Whitman, Shakespeare, and Mark Twain. Among his more well-known poems are "Dream Variations," "I, Too, Sing America," "Let American Be America Again," "Shakespeare in Harlem,"and "Dream Deferred."

Langston Hughes. Corbis  
(2009). Retrieved June 23, 2009, from  
Discovery Education: http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/

James Mercer Langston Hughes (1902-1967), born in Joplin, Missouri, became known as the "poet laureate of Harlem." His first, and possibly best known poem, *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, was published shortly after his graduation from high school. After traveling to Africa and Europe, he settled in Harlem and became a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance, writing and editing prose and drama as well as poetry, and publishing a newspaper column. Hughes claimed Walt Whitman, Carl Sandburg, and Paul Laurence Dunbar as his poetic influences. His poetry described eloquently the urban life of the Harlem in New York of the 1920s. Other poems Hughes wrote are "I,Too, SIng America," a poem based on Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass," "Dream Variations," "Let America Be America Again," and "Dream Deferred," a poem used by playwrite Lorraine Hansberry in her drama "A Raisin in the Sun." Stylistically, Hughes relies on free verse, internal rhyme schemes, rhetorical repetition, and metaphor for his poetry. He also co-wrote the play "Mule Bone" with writer Zora Neale Hurston. In addition to his poetry and dramas, Hughes wrote seminal essays; the most important one explored the role of the African-American artist as poet and as a person of color: "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain" (1926), as a response to journalist George Schuyler's essay "Negro Art Hokum" (1926). Photographed in 1947.

James Mercer Langston Hughes (1902-1967).. IRC  
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George Herman "Babe" Ruth (1895-1948), photographed in 1921 in his New York Yankees uniform. Baseball reached its golden age as a spectator sport in the 1920s, and "Babe" Ruth was its bad boy hero. Baltimore born, he played for the old Baltimore Orioles in 1914, then went to the Boston Red Sox, and in 1920 was sold to the Yankees for $125,000. His drinking habits outraged some fans, but when he hit 60 home runs in 1927, he set a record that remained unbroken for 34 years. More than 20 million fans paid to attend professional baseball games that year.

"Babe" Ruth (1895-1948).. IRC  
(2005). Retrieved June 23, 2009, from  
Discovery Education: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

RUTH, Babe,

real name George Herman Ruth (1895-1948), American professional baseball player, born in Baltimore, Md., and educated at Saint Mary's Industrial School in that city. Ruth was one of the most phenomenally gifted and popular players in the history of baseball. He began his career in 1914 as a left-handed pitcher for the Baltimore team of the International League. Later in the same year he played for the Providence team of the International League and then became a member of the Boston Red Sox of the American League. He pitched for Boston until the 1919 season, when his unusual ability as a batter and fielder caused the Boston management to convert him into an outfielder. From 1920 to 1935 he played the outfield for the New York Yankees of the American League. In 1935 he became vice-president of the Boston Braves of the National League and played a number of games as an outfielder. Three years later he was a coach for the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National League.Ruth was one of the best left-handed pitchers the game has ever known; he played in 163 games as a pitcher, winning 92 and losing 44, for a percentage of .676. From 1919 to the end of his career he was the outstanding outfielder of his time and one of the best in baseball history. He was particularly noted as a home-run hitter. In 1927 he hit 60 home runs in 154 games, a major league record that stood until 1961, when Roger Maris, another American League player, hit 61 home runs in the expanded 162-game season. (Maris's record was in turn broken by St. Louis Cardinals' player Mark McGwire, with 70, in 1998; McGwire's record was then surpassed by San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds, who hit 73 home runs, in 2001.)Ruth led the American League in home runs in ten seasons and tied for the home-run hitting championship in two seasons. His lifetime record of 714 home runs in regular-season play was broken by Hank Aaron in 1974. In his major league career of 22 years, Ruth played in 2503 games and had a lifetime batting average of .342. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

Ruth, Babe. Discovery Education  
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Discovery Education: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

MITCHELL, Margaret

(1900-49), American author of one of the most popular novels of all time. She was a reporter and feature writer for the Atlanta Journal from 1922 until 1926, when she began writing her one book, Gone with the Wind, which she completed ten years later. This romantic picture of life in the South during the American Civil War became a best-seller almost immediately and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1937. It was made into a motion picture that, after its release in 1939, became one of the most popular and praised of all films.

Mitchell, Margaret. Discovery Education  
(2009). Retrieved June 23, 2009, from  
Discovery Education: http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/

OWENS, Jesse,

real name James Cleveland Owens (1913-80), one of the greatest track-and-field athletes of all time, born in Danville, Ala., and educated at Ohio State University. He competed in interscholastic track meets while attending high school, excelling in the running broad jump, the 100-yd dash, and the 220-yd dash. As a member of the Ohio State University track squad in 1935, he established a world record of 26 ft 81/4 in. for the running broad jump; the next year he set a new world record of 10.2 sec for the 100-m dash.A member of the U.S. track team in the 1936 Olympic Games, held in Berlin, Owens won four gold medals. He won the 100-m dash in 10.3 sec, equaling the Olympic record; set a new Olympic and world record of 20.7 sec in the 200-m dash; and won the running broad jump with a leap of 26 ft 53/8 in., setting a new Olympic record. He was also a member of the U.S. 400-m relay team that year, which set a new Olympic and world record of 39.8 sec. Despite his outstanding athletic performance, however, Hitler refused to acknowledge Owens's Olympic victories because he was black.Owens went on to play an active role in youth athletic programs and later established his own public relations firm. His autobiography, The Jesse Owens Story, was published in 1970.For further information on this person, see the section Owens, Jesse.

Owens, Jesse. Discovery Education  
(2009). Retrieved June 23, 2009, from  
Discovery Education: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

FORD, Henry

(1863-1947), American industrialist, best known for his pioneering achievements in the automobile industry.Ford was born on a farm near Dearborn, Mich., on July 30, 1863, and educated in district schools. He became a machinist's apprentice in Detroit at the age of 16. From 1888 to 1899 he was a mechanical engineer, and later chief engineer, with the Edison Illuminating Co. In 1893, after experimenting for several years in his leisure hours, he completed the construction of his first automobile, and in 1903 he founded the Ford Motor Co.

Automobile Production.

In 1913 Ford began using standardized interchangeable parts and assembly-line techniques in his plant. Although Ford neither originated nor was the first to employ such practices, he was chiefly responsible for their general adoption and for the consequent great expansion of American industry and the raising of the American standard of living.By early 1914 this innovation, although greatly increasing productivity, had resulted in a monthly labor turnover of 40 to 60 percent in his factory, largely because of the unpleasant monotony of assembly-line work and repeated increases in the production quotas assigned to workers. Ford met this difficulty by doubling the daily wage then standard in the industry, raising it from about $2.50 to $5. The net result was increased stability in his labor force and a substantial reduction in operating costs. These factors, coupled with the enormous increase in output made possible by new technological methods, led to an increase in company profits from $30 million in 1914 to $60 million in 1916.In 1908 the Ford company initiated production of the celebrated Model T. Until 1927, when the Model T was discontinued in favor of a more up-to-date model, the company produced and sold about 15 million cars. Within the ensuing few years, however, Ford's preeminence as the largest producer and seller of automobiles in the nation was gradually lost to his competitors, largely because he was slow to adopt the practice of introducing a new model of automobile each year, which had become standard in the industry. During the 1930s Ford adopted the policy of the yearly changeover, but his company was unable to regain the position it had formerly held.

Labor Problems.

In the period from 1937 to 1941, the Ford company became the only major manufacturer of automobiles in the Detroit area that had not recognized any labor union as the collective bargaining representative of employees. At hearings before the National Labor Relations Board Ford was found guilty of repeated violations of the National Labor Relations Act. The findings against him were upheld on appeal to the federal courts. Ford was constrained to negotiate a standard labor contract after a successful strike by the workers at his main plant at River Rouge, Mich., in April 1941.

Wartime Production.

Early in 1941 Ford was granted government contracts whereby he was, at first, to manufacture parts for bombers and, later, the entire airplane. He thereupon launched the construction of a huge plant at Willow Run, Mich., where production was begun in May 1942. Despite certain technical difficulties, by the end of World War II (1945) this plant had manufactured more than 8000 planes.

Other Activities.

Ford was active in several other fields besides those of automobile and airplane manufacturing. In 1915 he chartered a peace ship, which carried him and a number of like-minded individuals to Europe, where they attempted without success to persuade the belligerent governments to end World War I. He was nominated for the office of U.S. senator from Michigan in 1918 but was defeated in the election. In the following year he erected the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit at a cost of $7.5 million. In 1919 he became the publisher of the Dearborn Independent, a weekly journal, which at first published anti-Semitic material. After considerable public protest, Ford directed that publication of such articles be discontinued and that a public apology be made to the Jewish people.Advancing age obliged Ford to retire from the active direction of his gigantic enterprises in 1945. He died on April 7, 1947, in Dearborn. Ford left a personal fortune estimated at $500 to $700 million, bequeathing the largest share of his holdings in the Ford Motor Co. to the Ford Foundation, a nonprofit organization.For further information on this person, see the section Ford, Henry.

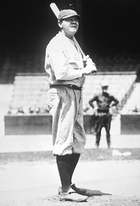
Ford, Henry. Discovery Education  
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Discovery Education: http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/

LINDBERGH, Charles Augustus

(1902-74), American aviator, engineer, and Pulitzer Prize winner, who was the first person to make a nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic, from New York to Paris, on May 20-21, 1927.Lindbergh was born Feb. 4, 1902, in Detroit. He attended the University of Wisconsin for two years but withdrew to attend a flying school in Lincoln, Nebr. He began flying in 1922, and four years later he piloted a mail plane between Saint Louis, Mo., and Chicago. He decided to compete for a prize of $25,000 offered in 1919 by the Franco-American philanthropist Raymond B. Orteig (1870-1939) of New York City for the first nonstop transatlantic solo flight between New York City and Paris. In his single-engine monoplane, Spirit of St. Louis, Lindbergh left Roosevelt Field at 7:52 am on May 20, 1927. After a flight of 33 hours 32 minutes, he landed at Le Bourget Airport near Paris. His achievement won the enthusiasm and acclaim of the world, and he was greeted as a hero in Europe and the U.S. He was later commissioned a colonel in the U.S. Air Service Reserve and was a technical adviser to commercial airlines. He made "goodwill tours" of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies. Lindbergh flew over Yucatán and Mexico in 1929 and over the Far East in 1931, and in 1933 he made a survey of more than 48,000 km (about 30,000 mi) for transatlantic air routes and landing fields. He also worked with the French surgeon Alexis Carrel in experiments to develop an artificial heart pump. Despite early promising results the experiments were given up without entirely achieving their purpose. The two men were coauthors of The Culture of Organs (1938).In 1929 he married Anne Morrow (1906-2001), the daughter of the American diplomat Dwight Morrow (1873-1931). As Anne Morrow Lindbergh she was to become known for her career in aviation and as a writer. The kidnapping and murder in 1932 of their first child, 19-month-old Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., attracted nationwide attention. (The Lindberghs had five more children.) A German-born carpenter, Bruno Hauptmann (1899-1936), was later found guilty of the crime and executed. To avoid further publicity, the Lindberghs moved to Europe in 1935. Lindbergh toured the Continent and studied the air forces of various countries. He accepted (1938) a decoration from Adolf Hitler and praised the German air force as superior to that of any other European country. On his return (1939) to the U.S., Lindbergh toured the country and made a series of antiwar speeches for the America First Committee (see ISOLATIONISM,). He was criticized as being pro-German and was forced to resign his commission in the air corps reserve and his membership in the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. During World War II Lindbergh was a civilian consultant to aircraft manufacturers and was sent on overseas missions for the U.S. Army Air Force. He died on Aug. 26, 1974, on Maui in Hawaii.Lindbergh's writings include the story of his historic flight, We (1927), and his autobiography, The Spirit of St. Louis (1953; Pulitzer Prize, 1954). He was also the author of Autobiography of Values (1978). The Charles A. Lindbergh Fund (1977), renamed the Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation in 1994, supports programs to "fulfill their vision of a balance between technological advancement and environmental preservation."Anne Morrow Lindbergh was her husband's trusted copilot and radio navigator on their history-making flights all over the world. She was the first licensed female glider pilot in the U.S. For her accomplishments in exploratory flying over five continents with her husband she was awarded the National Geographic Society Hubbard Gold Medal in 1934.A well-known author, she wrote more than a dozen books inspired by their many flights, including North to the Orient (1935), about their 1931 journey over Canada, Alaska, Japan and China, and Listen! The Wind (1938), about their survey of north and south Atlantic air routes. She is also the author of the best-seller Gift from the Sea (1955), a collection of highly personal essays addressed to women; The Unicorn and Other Poems, 1935-1955 (1956); and a novel, Dearly Beloved (1962). Her letters and diaries from 1922 to 1944-- except for those from 1929 to 1932 published as Hour of Gold, Hour of Lead in 1995--were collected in four volumes, beginning with Bring Me a Unicorn (1972) and ending with War Within and Without (1980).

Lindbergh, Charles Augustus. Discovery Education  
(2005). Retrieved June 23, 2009, from  
Discovery Education: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

# Ruth, Babe

[](http://www.worldbookonline.com/kids/Media?id=pc300299)

Picture

[Babe Ruth](http://www.worldbookonline.com/kids/Media?id=pc300299)

Babe Ruth (1895-1948) was the first great home-run hitter in baseball history. He hit 714 home runs during his career. This was a record until Henry Aaron hit his 715th home run in 1974. Aaron eventually hit 755 home runs before retiring after the 1976 season. Barry Bonds broke Aaron's record when he hit his 756th career home run in 2007.

George Herman Ruth was born in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1914, he became a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. He began to play regularly in the outfield in 1918.

In 1920, Ruth was traded to the New York Yankees. So many fans went to see him play at Yankee Stadium that it was nicknamed “The House That Ruth Built.” In 1927, he hit 60 home runs during a 154-game season.

Ruth ended his playing career in 1935 with the Boston Braves. In the final game, Ruth hit three home runs. In 1936, Ruth became one of the first five players elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

"Ruth, Babe." *World Book Kids.* 2009. [Place of access.] 24 June 2009 <http://www.worldbookonline.com/kids/Article?id=ar831885>.

# Owens, Jesse

[](http://www.worldbookonline.com/kids/Media?id=pc113037)

Picture

[Jesse Owens was an American track and field star.](http://www.worldbookonline.com/kids/Media?id=pc113037)

Jesse Owens (1913-1980) was an American track and field star. He became one of the most famous athletes in sports history. Owens set seven world records.

James Cleveland Owens was born in Oakville, Alabama. His nickname was Jesse. Owens attended Ohio State University.

Owens won four gold medals at the 1936 Summer Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. During the games, Adolf Hitler, the ruler of Germany, hoped that white Germans would prove that they were better than everyone else. The performance of Owens, who was black, was upsetting to Hitler.

After the Olympics, Owens worked in community service, especially youth work. He believed that athletic contests could help people get along better with one another.

"Owens, Jesse." *World Book Kids.* 2009. [Place of access.] 24 June 2009 <http://www.worldbookonline.com/kids/Article?id=ar831685>.

Lindbergh, Charles Augustus (1902-1974), an American aviator and airmail pilot, made the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean on May 20-21, 1927. Other pilots had crossed the Atlantic before him. But Lindbergh was the first person to do it alone nonstop.

[View this Picture](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar324900&st=charles+lindbergh)

Picture

[Charles Lindbergh](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar324900&st=charles+lindbergh)

Lindbergh's feat gained him immediate international fame. The press named him "Lucky Lindy" and the "Lone Eagle." Americans and Europeans idolized the shy, slim young man and showered him with honors.

Before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Lindbergh campaigned against voluntary American involvement in World War II. Many Americans criticized him for his noninvolvement beliefs. After the war, he avoided publicity until the late 1960's, when he spoke out for the conservation of natural resources. Lindbergh served as an adviser in the aviation industry from the days of wood and wire airplanes to supersonic jets.

**Early life.** Charles Augustus Lindbergh was born on Feb. 4, 1902, in Detroit. He grew up on a farm near Little Falls, Minnesota. He was the son of Charles August Lindbergh, a lawyer, and his wife, Evangeline Lodge Land. Lindbergh's father served as a U.S. congressman from Minnesota from 1907 to 1917.

In childhood, Lindbergh showed exceptional mechanical ability. At the age of 18, he entered the University of Wisconsin to study engineering. But Lindbergh was more interested in the field of aviation than he was in school. After two years, he left school to become a *barnstormer,* a pilot who performed daredevil stunts at fairs.

In 1924, Lindbergh enlisted in the United States Army so that he could be trained as an Army Air Service Reserve pilot. In 1925, he graduated from the Army's flight-training school at Brooks and Kelly fields, near San Antonio, as the best pilot in his class. After Lindbergh completed his Army training, the Robertson Aircraft Corporation of St. Louis hired him to fly the mail between St. Louis and Chicago. He gained a reputation as a cautious and capable pilot.

[Print "Early life" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar324900&ss=h1)

**His historic flight.** In 1919, a New York City hotel owner named Raymond Orteig offered $25,000 to the first aviator to fly nonstop from New York to Paris. Several pilots were killed or injured while competing for the Orteig prize. By 1927, it had still not been won. Lindbergh believed he could win it if he had the right airplane. He persuaded nine St. Louis businessmen to help him finance the cost of a plane. Lindbergh approached a number of major aircraft manufacturers, but they all refused to sell him a plane. He then selected the Ryan Aeronautical Company of San Diego to manufacture a special plane, which he helped design. He named the plane the *Spirit of St. Louis.* On May 10-11, 1927, Lindbergh tested the plane by flying from San Diego to New York City, with an overnight stop in St. Louis. The flight took 20 hours 21 minutes, a transcontinental record.

[](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar324900&st=charles+lindbergh)

Video

[Charles Lindbergh with the Spirit of St. Louis](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar324900&st=charles+lindbergh)

On May 20, Lindbergh took off in the *Spirit of St. Louis* from Roosevelt Field, near New York City, at 7:52 A.M. He landed at Le Bourget Field, near Paris, on May 21 at 10:21 P.M. Paris time (5:21 P.M. New York time). Thousands of cheering people had gathered to meet him. He had flown more than 3,600 miles (5,790 kilometers) in 33 1/2 hours. See Back in Time: [**Aviation (1927)**](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/media?id=bt127031).

Lindbergh's heroic flight thrilled people throughout the world. He was honored with awards, celebrations, and parades. President Calvin Coolidge gave Lindbergh the Distinguished Flying Cross. By act of Congress, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

In 1927, Lindbergh wrote *We,* an autobiography that was published that same year. Also in 1927, Lindbergh flew throughout the United States to encourage air-mindedness on behalf of the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics. Lindbergh learned about the pioneer rocket research of Robert H. Goddard, a Clark University physics professor. Lindbergh persuaded the Guggenheim family to support Goddard's experiments, which later led to the development of missiles, satellites, and space travel. Lindbergh also worked for several airlines as a technical adviser.

[Print "His historic flight" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar324900&ss=h2)

**Good-will ambassador.** At the request of the U.S. government, Lindbergh flew to various Latin American countries in December 1927 as a symbol of American good will. While in Mexico, he met Anne Spencer Morrow, the daughter of Dwight W. Morrow, the American ambassador. Lindbergh married Anne Morrow in 1929. He taught her to fly, and they went on many flying expeditions together throughout the world, charting new routes for various airlines. Anne Morrow Lindbergh also became famous for her poetry and other writings. See [**Lindbergh, Anne Morrow.**](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar324890)

Lindbergh invented an "artificial heart" between 1931 and 1935. He developed it for Alexis Carrel, a French surgeon and biologist whose research included experiments in keeping organs alive outside the body. Lindbergh's device could pump the substances necessary for life throughout the tissues of an organ. See [**Carrel, Alexis**](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar723271).

[Print "Good-will ambassador" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar324900&ss=h3)

**The Lindbergh kidnapping.** On March 1, 1932, the Lindberghs' 20-month-old son, Charles Augustus, Jr., was kidnapped from the family home in New Jersey. About ten weeks later, his body was found. In 1934, police arrested a carpenter, Bruno Richard Hauptmann, and charged him with the murder. Hauptmann was convicted of the crime. He was executed in 1936.

The press sensationalized the tragedy. Reporters, photographers, and curious onlookers harassed the Lindberghs constantly. In 1935, after the Hauptmann trial, Lindbergh, his wife, and their 3-year-old son, Jon, moved to Europe in search of privacy and safety.

The Lindbergh kidnapping led Congress to pass the "Lindbergh law." This law makes kidnapping a federal offense if the victim is taken across state lines or if the mail service is used for ransom demands.

[Print "The Lindbergh kidnapping" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar324900&ss=h4)

**World War II.** While in Europe, Lindbergh was invited by the governments of France and Germany to tour the aircraft industries of their countries. Lindbergh was especially impressed with the highly advanced aircraft industry of Nazi Germany. In 1938, Hermann Goring, a high Nazi official, presented Lindbergh with a German medal of honor. Lindbergh's acceptance of the medal caused an outcry in the United States among critics of Nazism.

Lindbergh and his family returned to the United States in 1939. In 1941, he joined the America First Committee, an organization that opposed voluntary American entry into World War II. Lindbergh became a leading spokesman for the committee. He criticized President Franklin D. Roosevelt's foreign policies. He also charged that British, Jewish, and pro-Roosevelt groups were leading America into war. Lindbergh resigned his commission in the Army Air Corps after Roosevelt publicly denounced him. Some Americans accused Lindbergh of being a Nazi sympathizer because he refused to return the medal he had accepted from Goring.

After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Lindbergh stopped his noninvolvement activity. He tried to reenlist, but his request was refused. He then served as a technical adviser and test pilot for the Ford Motor Company and United Aircraft Corporation (now United Technologies Corporation).

In April 1944, Lindbergh went to the Pacific war area as an adviser to the United States Army and Navy. Although he was a civilian, he flew about 50 combat missions. Lindbergh also developed cruise control techniques that increased the capabilities of American fighter planes.

[Print "World War II" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar324900&ss=h5)

**After the war,** Lindbergh withdrew from public attention. He worked as a consultant to the chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force. President Dwight D. Eisenhower restored Lindbergh's commission and appointed him a brigadier general in the Air Force in 1954. Pan American World Airways also hired Lindbergh as a consultant. He advised the airline on its purchase of jet transports and eventually helped design the Boeing 747 jet. In 1953, Lindbergh published *The Spirit of St. Louis,* an expanded account of his 1927 transatlantic flight. The book won a Pulitzer Prize in 1954.

Lindbergh traveled widely and developed an interest in the cultures of peoples in Africa and the Philippines. During the late 1960's, Lindbergh ended his years of silence to speak out for the conservation movement. He especially campaigned for the protection of humpback and blue whales, two species of whales in danger of becoming extinct. Lindbergh opposed the development of supersonic transport planes because he feared the effects the planes might have on the atmosphere of the earth.

Lindbergh died of cancer on Aug. 26, 1974, in his home on the Hawaiian island of Maui. The *Autobiography of Values,* a collection of Lindbergh's writings, was published in 1978.

In 2001, three adult children of a German woman claimed that Lindbergh was their father. DNA tests in 2003 confirmed that the three—two men and a woman born in 1958, 1960, and 1967—were related to Lindbergh. In 2005, the three Germans suggested that Lindbergh had fathered four other children by two different German women during the same period, when he was married to Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

See also [**Airplane**](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar009700) [**(History)**](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar009700&sc=-1#h39); [**Lindbergh, Anne Morrow**](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar324890).

[Print "After the war" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar324900&ss=h6)

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**How to cite this article:**   
To cite this article, World Book recommends the following format:

Ferrara, Ronald J. "Lindbergh, Charles Augustus." World Book Student. 2009. [Place of access.]  24 June 2009   
<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar324900>.

Armstrong, Louis (1901-1971), was one of the most famous and influential performers in the history of jazz. Armstrong gained recognition as the world's greatest jazz cornet and trumpet player in the 1920's and early 1930's. He also became famous as a singer with his distinctive gravelly voice.

Armstrong was born on Aug. 4, 1901, in New Orleans. He learned to play the cornet while serving a sentence for delinquency in the Home for Colored Waifs. In 1922, Armstrong left New Orleans to join King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band in Chicago. His first recorded solo appears on the band's recording of "Chimes Blues" (1923). Armstrong was coached by Lil Hardin, the band's classically trained pianist. They were married in 1924. In that year, with Hardin's encouragement, Armstrong left Oliver to join the Fletcher Henderson band in New York City.

In 1925, Armstrong returned to Chicago. There, during the next three years, he made a series of small band recordings that rank among the masterpieces of jazz. Many of these recordings were issued under the names Hot Five and Hot Seven. They showed Armstrong's brilliant tone and tremendous range. Classic recordings from this time include "Cornet Chop Suey" (1926), "Potato Head Blues" (1927), "Struttin' with Some Barbecue" (1927), "Hotter than That" (1927), "Tight Like This" (1928), "West End Blues" (1928), and a duet with pianist Earl Hines called "Weather Bird" (1928).

In the Hot Five recording of "Heebie Jeebies" (1926), Armstrong first employed *scat singing,* a form of rhythmic wordless singing. Many singers adopted the style. During this period, Armstrong switched from the cornet to the trumpet.

[](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar031040&st=louis+armstrong)

Picture

[Louis Armstrong with his band](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar031040&st=louis+armstrong)

Starting in 1929, Armstrong appeared in musical shows, often as featured soloist with a big band. By the mid-1930's, he had become less of a jazz artist and more of a popular entertainer, on the advice of his managers. However, he retained his brilliance as a trumpeter. In 1947, Armstrong formed the first in a series of small bands called the All-Stars. As he grew older and his health declined, he played less and sang more. A new generation of fans in the 1950's and 1960's knew Armstrong primarily as an outgoing singer and entertainer. He made several hit vocal recordings, including "Hello, Dolly!" (1964) and "What a Wonderful World" (1967). Armstrong wrote an autobiography, *Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans* (1954). A selection of his personal writings was published as *Louis Armstrong: In His Own Words* (1999). Armstrong died on July 6, 1971.

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**How to cite this article:**   
To cite this article, World Book recommends the following format:

Cook, Eddie. "Armstrong, Louis." World Book Student. 2009. [Place of access.]  24 June 2009   
<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar031040>.

Ellington, Duke (1899-1974), was an American jazz bandleader, composer, and pianist. He rates as one of the greatest figures in jazz and, according to many critics, its most significant composer.

Edward Kennedy Ellington was born on April 29, 1899, in Washington, D.C. He began playing piano at the age of 7 and made his professional debut at 17. He moved to New York City in 1923 as a member of Elmer Snowden's band, the Washingtonians. Ellington soon took over the band, which grew from 5 pieces to 12 pieces by 1931. From 1927 to 1932, the Ellington band was the house band at the Cotton Club in Harlem. There, they played a rhythmic, exotic sound called *jungle music.*

[](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar178800&st=duke+ellington)

Video

[Duke Ellington](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar178800&st=duke+ellington)

The band's reputation gradually grew through many recordings of Ellington compositions, including "Mood Indigo" (1930), "Creole Rhapsody" (1931), "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing" (1932), "Sophisticated Lady" (1933), "Solitude" (1934), and "In a Sentimental Mood" (1935). The mid-1930's to the mid-1940's is generally considered Ellington's most creative period. Many of his most highly regarded recordings were made during this time, including "Harlem Air-shaft" (1940), "Jack the Bear" (1940), "Ko-Ko" (1940), and "Concerto for Cootie" (1940). In 1939, Billy Strayhorn joined Ellington's band as a composer, often with Ellington, and arranger. He composed "Take the A Train" (1941), which became the band's theme song.

Many of Ellington's key musicians—such as saxophonists Johnny Hodges and Harry Carney—remained with him for several decades, contributing to the band's readily identifiable sound. Other important musicians were tenor saxophonists Ben Webster and Paul Gonsalves, trombonists Joe Nanton and Lawrence Brown, clarinetist Barney Bigard, bassist Jimmy Blanton, and trumpeters Rex Stewart, Clark Terry, Cootie Williams, and Ray Nance.

Beginning in the 1940's, Ellington composed longer works, such as *Black, Brown, and Beige* (1943). During the 1960's, Ellington wrote several film scores and began composing sacred music. *Music Is My Mistress* (1973) is Ellington's autobiography. He died on May 24, 1974. Mercer Ellington, Duke's son, was a trumpeter, composer, and record company executive. He also led the Ellington band for several years after his father's death.

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**How to cite this article:**   
To cite this article, World Book recommends the following format:

Cook, Eddie. "Ellington, Duke." World Book Student. 2009. [Place of access.]  24 June 2009   
<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar178800>.

**Hughes, Langston** (1902-1967), was an African American author best known for his poetry. Hughes experimented with the poetic *meter* (rhythm) by using the rhythm of jazz and blues music in his verses.

Hughes was an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance, a period of creativity among black artists in the 1920’s and 1930’s. His first volume, *The Weary Blues* (1926), introduced his poetic style of short, rhythmic lines with a musical quality. Hughes’s writings addressed race pride, black culture, political consciousness, and working class urban life. One of Hughes’s most popular works was a series of fictional sketches about a black man called Jesse B. Semple, also known as “Simple.” This character was a “simple” or average workingman who expressed his opinions about life, race, and current events. Beginning in the 1940’s, Hughes wrote sketches, books, and plays about Simple for 20 years.

Hughes wrote or edited more than 50 books. Examples include the novel *Not Without Laughter* (1930); the short-story collection *The Ways of White Folks* (1934); the hit Broadway play *Mulatto* (1935); and two autobiographies, *The Big Sea* (1940) and *I Wonder As I Wander* (1956). *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes* was published in 1994, after his death.

James Langston Hughes was born on Feb. 1, 1902. He graduated from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. Hughes was awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1960 for his achievement in literature. He died on May 22, 1967.

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**How to cite this article:**   
To cite this article, World Book recommends the following format:

McKay, Nellie Y. "Hughes, Langston." World Book Student. 2009. [Place of access.]  24 June 2009   
<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar266060>.

Ford, Henry (1863-1947), was the leading manufacturer of American automobiles in the early 1900's. He established the Ford Motor Company, which revolutionized the automobile industry with its assembly line method of production. The savings from this technique helped Ford sell automobiles at a lower price than anyone had before. From 1908 to 1927, more than half the cars sold in the United States were Fords.

[View this Picture](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar204085&st=henry+ford)

Picture

[Henry Ford](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar204085&st=henry+ford)

**Early life.** Ford was born on July 30, 1863, on a farm in what is now Dearborn, Michigan. He became a machinist at the age of 16 and later worked as an engineer at a Detroit electric company. As a young man, Ford became interested in automobiles, which were then a new invention. He built his first successful gasoline engine in 1893 and his first automobile in 1896.

[Print "Early life" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar204085&ss=h1)

**Industrial accomplishments.** In 1903, Ford organized the Ford Motor Company. At first, the company produced only expensive cars, as its competitors did. However, Ford soon began working to make a simple, sturdy car that large numbers of people would be able to afford. He achieved one of the first such cars with the Model T, which appeared in 1908. In 1909, Ford decided to produce only Model T's.

The original price of $850 for a Model T car was too high for many customers. To lower the price, Ford and his executives tried new ways to reduce production costs. For example, the company created an assembly line method in which conveyor belts brought automobile parts to workers. Each worker performed a particular task, such as adding or tightening a part. This system helped reduce the assembly time of a Ford automobile from about 121/2 worker-hours in 1912 to about 11/2 worker-hours in 1914.

Ford Motor Company began to produce its own parts instead of buying them from independent suppliers at a higher price. Ford also shipped automobile parts, rather than assembled automobiles, to market areas, where assembly plants put the parts together. Parts cost less to ship than whole automobiles did. In addition, the company began to make its own glass and steel.

As the company's production costs fell, Ford passed much of the savings on to his customers. The price of a Model T touring car dropped to $550 in 1913, $440 in 1915, and $290 in 1924, putting the automobile within reach of the average family.

In 1914, Ford raised the minimum wage to $5 a day for his employees 22 years of age and over. This rate was more than twice what most wage earners received. Ford also reduced the workday from 9 to 8 hours. Workers flocked to Ford plants seeking jobs, and Ford could choose the hardest-working and smartest ones. To encourage productivity, Ford introduced a profit-sharing plan, which set aside part of the company's profits for its employees.

During the mid-1920's, Ford continued to produce the Model T even though its popularity had declined. Meanwhile, the General Motors Corporation (GM) gained an increasing share of the U.S. automobile market. GM offered a wide variety of models equipped with many luxuries. GM also introduced new designs yearly and advertised its cars as symbols of wealth and taste. Ford, however, continued to offer only basic transportation at a low cost. The Model T changed little from year to year, and, from 1914 to 1925, it came in only one color, black.

Ford finally introduced a new design, the Model A, in 1927, after more than 15 million Model T's had been sold. In 1932, Ford introduced the first low-priced car with a *V-8 engine,* a powerful engine that had eight cylinders arranged in a V. By that time, however, GM had taken the lead from Ford Motor in U.S. auto sales. Ford Motor declined throughout the 1930's, and some people began to question Henry Ford's management skills. In 1945, Henry Ford II, one of Ford's grandsons, took over the company.

[Print "Industrial accomplishments" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar204085&ss=h2)

**Political and charitable activities.** Ford had long taken an interest in political affairs. In 1915, during World War I, he and about 170 other people traveled to Europe at his expense to seek peace. The group, which lacked approval by the U.S. government, failed to persuade the warring nations to settle their differences.

In 1918, the year the war ended, Ford ran as a Democrat for a Senate seat from Michigan. He lost the election and did not seek public office again, but he continued to speak out on political issues. He made many statements critical of Jews. He also opposed labor unions. He fought attempts by the United Automobile Workers (UAW) to organize his employees.

Ford devoted much time and money to educational and charitable works. He established Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum, both in Dearborn. The village is a group of restored historical buildings. The museum includes exhibits in science, industry, and art. In 1936, Ford and his son, Edsel, set up the Ford Foundation, one of the world's largest foundations, which gives grants for education, research, and development.

Ford wrote four books with author Samuel Crowther. They are *My Life and Work* (1922), *Today and Tomorrow* (1926), *Edison As I Know Him* (1930), and *Moving Forward* (1931). Ford died on April 7, 1947.

[Print "Political and charitable activities" subsection](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/printarticle?id=ar204085&ss=h3)

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**How to cite this article:**   
To cite this article, World Book recommends the following format:

Sobel, Robert. "Ford, Henry." World Book Student. 2009. [Place of access.]  24 June 2009   
<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar204085>.

Mitchell, Margaret (1900-1949), an American author, wrote *Gone with the Wind* (1936), one of the most popular novels of all time. It won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

[](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar365080&st=margaret+mitchell)

Picture

[Gone with the Wind](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar365080&st=margaret+mitchell)

*Gone with the Wind* is a story of the South during the Civil War, written from the Southern point of view. The story begins just before the outbreak of the war in 1861. It describes the impact of the conflict on the South and ends during the postwar Reconstruction period. The two main characters—the Southern belle Scarlett O'Hara and the dashing Rhett Butler—rank among the best-known figures in American fiction. The motion picture *Gone with the Wind* (1939) became one of the most popular films ever made.

Mitchell was born on Nov. 8, 1900, in Atlanta, Georgia, where much of the action of *Gone with the Wind* takes place. She wrote the novel over a period of 10 years. *Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind" Letters: 1936-1949* was published in 1976. Mitchell died on Aug. 16, 1949. Alexandra Ripley wrote a continuation of the Mitchell novel that was published in 1991 as *Scarlett: The Sequel to Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the Wind.*

See also [**Gone with the Wind**](http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar748576).

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**How to cite this article:**   
To cite this article, World Book recommends the following format:

Polk, Noel. "Mitchell, Margaret." World Book Student. 2009. [Place of access.]  24 June 2009   
<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar365080>.