

A Changing People

Directions Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Irving Berlin's father was a cantor, a person who sings at religious services in Jewish synagogues. Perhaps it was his father's music that caused Berlin to be interested in writing songs. When he was in the Army during World War I, Berlin wrote a musical show. He later won both the United States Army's Award of Merit and a congressional medal for his songs. One of his most popular songs is "God Bless America."

Although Sophia Alice Callahan lived to be only 26 years old, she wrote an important novel. *Wynema: A Child of the Forest* is thought to be the first novel written by a Native American woman. Callahan's father was one-eighth Creek Indian. The novel has two major characters, Wynema and a Methodist teacher named Genevieve, who try to overcome prejudice against both Indians and women in the late nineteenth century.

Hiram Fong graduated from Harvard Law School before he returned to his native Hawaii to practice law. Hawaii at that time was still a territory. Fong served in the territorial legislature from 1938 to 1954. When Hawaii became a state, he was elected to the United States Senate. He served in the Senate from 1959 until 1977.

African American artist Jacob Lawrence did a 63-painting series on the lives of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. He studied painting in the Harlem section of New York City. During the depression, Lawrence worked for a federal project. This gave him enough money to be able to paint *Migration*, a series of 60 panels showing the movement of African Americans from the South to the North.

1 Explain what all the people in the passage have in common.

2 Who might have influenced Irving Berlin's interest in music?

3 How did Hiram Fong serve his homeland?

4 What two series of paintings were created by Jacob Lawrence?
