



Name: _____

Date: _____

Tenement Reform

Do Now

Describe where you live.

Imagine ten more people moved into your home, where would they go? Where would everyone sleep?

Choose three pictures and describe them

Image #	Description

Excerpt from Jacob Riis' *How the Other Half Lives*

"Nothing is now better understood than that the rescue of the children is the key to the problem of city poverty, as presented for our solution to-day; that character may be formed where to reform it would be a hopeless task."¹

According to Riis, what action(s) will end poverty in the city?

¹Riis, Jacob. "Riis, How the Other Half Lives, 1890." *Riis, How the Other Half Lives, 1890*. Yale University, n.d. Web. 08 Aug. 2016. <<http://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/336riis.html>>.



Video - Jacob Riis

How did Riis use technology to show how the poor lived?

What did Riis reveal?

Excerpt from Jacob Riis' *How the Other Half Lives*

"Be a little careful, please! The hall is dark and you might stumble over the children pitching pennies back there. Not that it would hurt them; kicks and cuffs are their daily diet. They have little else. Here where the hall turns and dives into utter darkness is a step, and another, another. A flight of stairs. You can feel your way, if you cannot see it. Close? Yes! What would you have? All the fresh air that ever enters these stairs comes from the hall-door that is forever slamming, and from the windows of dark bedrooms that in turn receive from the stairs their sole supply of the elements God meant to be free... That was a woman filling her pail by the hydrant you just bumped against. The sinks are in the hallway, that all the tenants may have access--and all be poisoned alike by their summer stench. Hear the pump squeak! It is the lullaby of tenement-house babes. In summer, when a thousand thirsty throats pant for a cooling drink in this block, it is worked in vain. But the saloon, whose open door you passed in the hall, is always there. The smell of it has followed you up. Here is a door. Listen! That short hacking cough, that tiny, helpless wail--what do they mean? They mean that the soiled bow of white you saw on the door downstairs will have another story to tell--Oh! a sadly familiar story--before the day is at an end. The child is dying with measles. With half a chance it might have lived; but it had none. That dark bedroom killed it."²

Describe this scene in your own words or with a picture:

²Riis, Jacob. "Excerpt from How the Other Half Lives, by Jacob Riis." *Excerpts from How the Other Half Lives, by Jacob Riis*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999. Web. 08 Aug. 2016. <<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/8/unit/act6.1blm1.html>>.



How could living in a tenement affect one's health?

Tenement House Act 1901

The Committee, after making an examination of most of the tenement houses in all the different wards of the city, came to the conclusion that "the dwellings of the industrious class in New York were not adapted to the wants of human beings nor compatible with the health or social or moral improvement of the occupants."

Among the evils which, in their opinion, were responsible for the prevalence of bad conditions were the following:

1. The crowded condition of the dwellings in which the poor were compelled to live.
2. Too great density of population in certain districts.
3. Neglect of ventilation a prevailing cause of ill-health.³

What does the housing committee think of the tenements in New York City?

³⁻⁴US Government. "Tenement House Reform in New York, 1834-1900." *Full Text of "Tenement House Reform in New York, 1834-1900"* Archive.org, 2000. Web. 08 Aug. 2016. <https://archive.org/stream/tenementhousetext00veilrich/tenementhousetext00veilrich_djvu.txt>.



"A special architectural competition was held for the best type of tenement house plans, and an excellent type of building was finally chosen...Every apartment is a home in itself; every room has quite, good light and air and good ventilation; the staircases and stair walls of 'the buildings are entirely fireproof; the halls and stairways are well lighted and steam- heated; in the two houses are nine separate entrances from the street and every entrance has two stairways and two dumb waiters; the partitions between the different dwellings are deafened; every apartment is supplied with its own private water-closet, and most of the apartments have a small private hall; the buildings are furnished with most modern conveniences, such as stationary wash-tubs and sinks in the kitchen, hot water, gas ranges, wood and coal closets, and laundries and bathrooms on the first floor."⁴

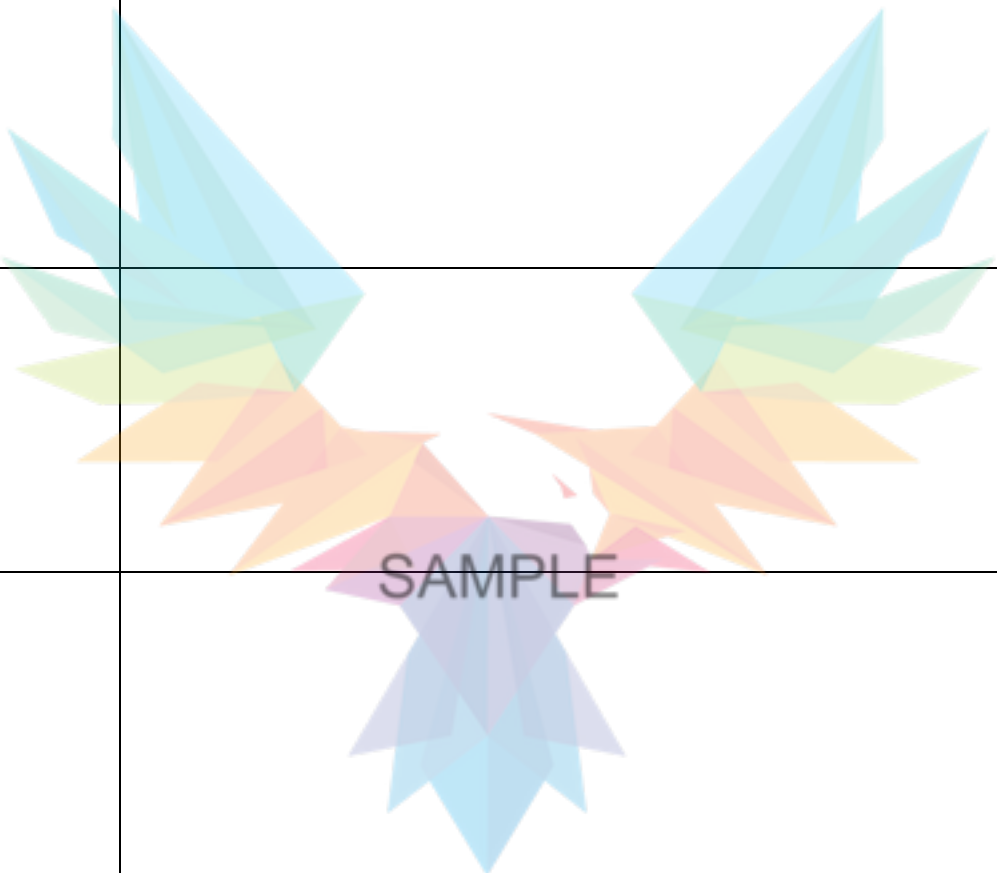

How are the new tenements different than the ones depicted by Riis?

How can this improve the living conditions of people in the city?





Virtual Field Trip: Lower East Side Tenement Museum

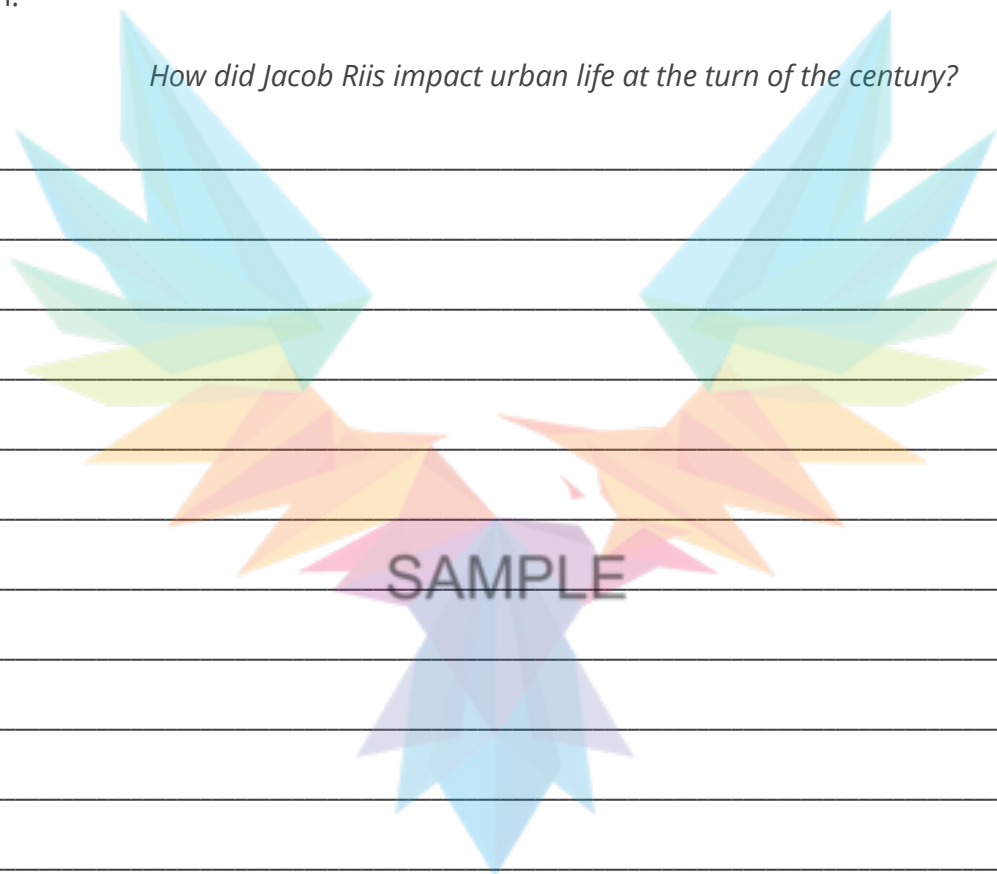
Scene	Question Level	Response
		
SAMPLE		SAMPLE
		



Exit Ticket

Write a response with a claim, 3 pieces of evidence to support the claim and analysis of the evidence that answers the aim:

How did Jacob Riis impact urban life at the turn of the century?



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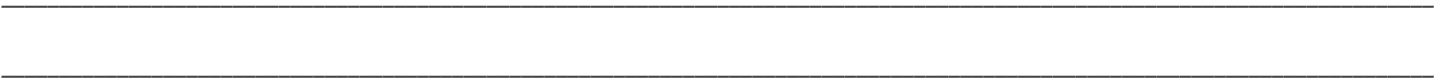
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