

The Meat Inspection Act of 1906
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American History, 11th grade and above

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying documents 1 through 7. Some of the documents have been edited for use with the Document Based Question. As you analyze the documents be sure to take into account the author of the document, and their point of view. Answer the questions following each document. After analyzing all the documents, you will write an essay answering the question below and using what you learned from the documents as well as prior knowledge.

Question: Is *The Jungle* an accurate depiction of the meat packing industry, or is the Upton Sinclair simply a muckraker? Choose a position and defend it.

Document 1:

"IT was only when the whole ham was spoiled that it came into the department of Elzbieta... There was never the least attention paid to what was cut up for sausage: there would come all the way back from Europe old sausage that had been rejected, and that was mouldy and white- it would be dosed with borax and glycerin , and dumped into the hoppers, and made over again for home consumption."

The Jungle, Upton Sinclair

"It was too dark in these storage places to see well, but a man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the dried dung of rats. The packers would put poisoned bread out for them; they would die, and then the rats, bread, and meat would go into the hoppers together.

The Jungle, Upton Sinclair

1. What were the conditions of the factories as described by Upton Sinclair?
2. Why would factories want to create a product this way?

Document 2:

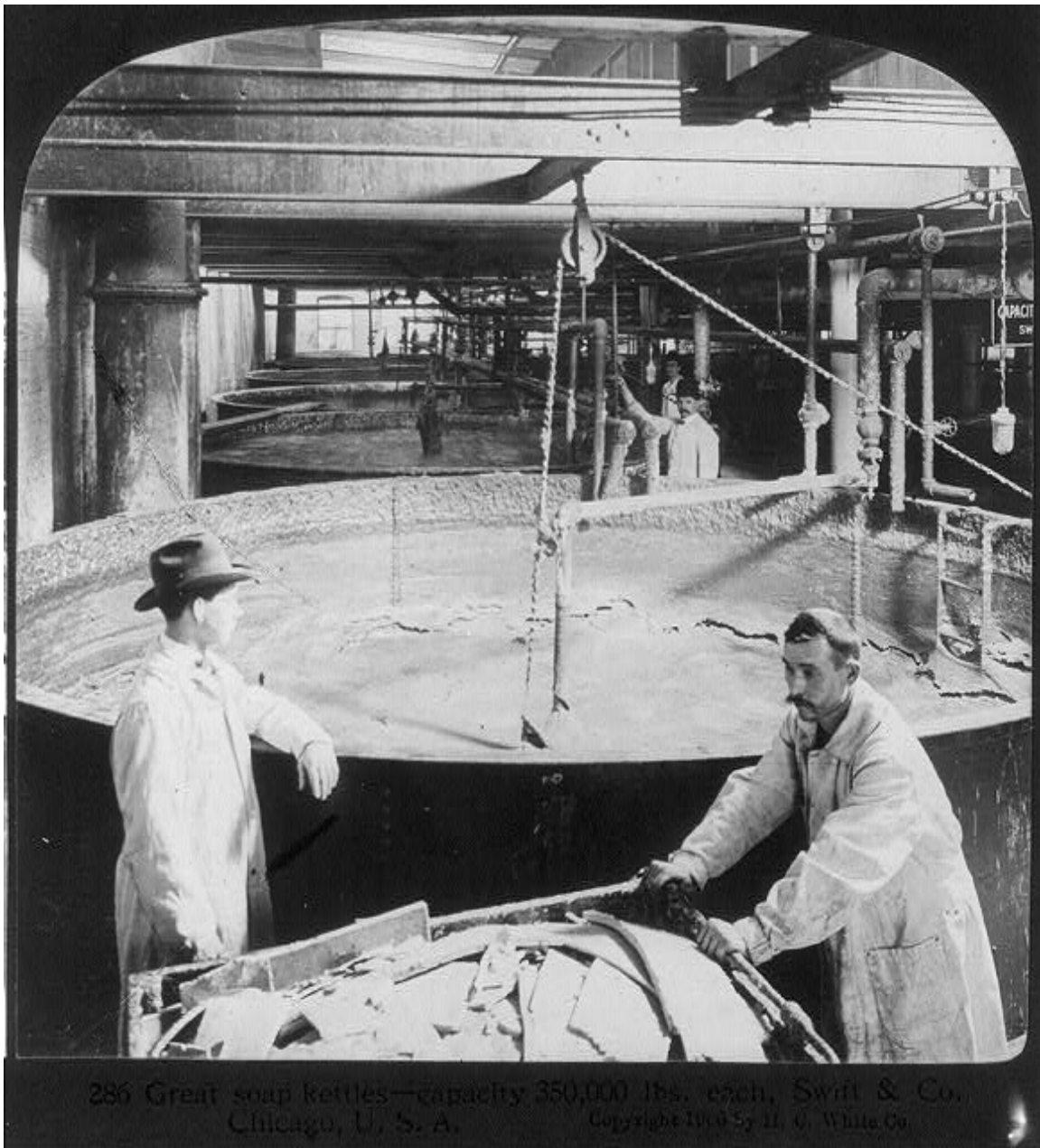
Letter from Jack London about the announcement of the release of *The Jungle*:

"Dear Comrads...The book we have been waiting for these many years! It will open countless ears that have been deaf to Socialism. It will make thousands of converts to our cause. It depicts what our country really is, the home of oppression and injustice, a nightmare of misery, an inferno of suffering, a human hell, a jungle of wild beasts... What *Uncle Tom's Cabin* did for the slaves *The Jungle* has a large chance to do for the white slaves of today?"

3. What cause was Jack London speaking of in the letter?

4. Does the socialist spin on the book make you believe less in the authenticity of *The Jungle*'s story?
 5. What would the story in *the Jungle* free the "white slaves" of today from?
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Document 3:



Swift & Co.'s Packing House: great soap kettles. Chicago, Meat Packing Industry.

6. What seems to be going on in this photograph?
7. What condition does the packing plant seem to be in?

Document 4:



Killing hogs, Swift & Co.'s Packing House, Chicago, U.S.A.

8. What seems to be going on in this photograph?

9. What condition does the packing plant seem to be in?

Document 5:



Making link sausages, Swift & Co.'s Packing House, Chicago, U.S.A.

10. What condition/ dress do the people working in the factory seem to be in?

11. Does the portrayal in this image seem accurate?

12. What condition does the packing house seem to be in?

Document 6:

Selections from the Meat Inspection Act of 1906

Inspection Consists of:

1. Examination of animals and their carcasses at slaughter.
2. Inspection of all stages of preparation to assure sanitary handling and equipment.
3. Destruction of condemned product.
4. Examination of all ingredients.
5. Application of identification standards to products.
6. Accurate labeling enforcement.
7. Inspection of imported products.
8. Administration of product certification.

13. What do the majority of the inspection protocols lean toward?

14. What types of activities were the inspections trying to stop?

Document 7:

Political Cartoon



15. Who is represented in the above image?

16. What does that person seem to be doing?

17. How do the different words and phrases depicted above relate to each other?