

Read the excerpt from Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and answer the questions that follow in the spaces provided.

There was never the least attention paid to what was cut up for sausage ..... There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had tramped and spit.... There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it, and thousands of rats would race about on it. 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. These rats were nuisances, and the packers would put poisoned bread out for them; they would die, and then rats, bread and meat would go into the hoppers together. This was no fairy story and no joke; the meat would be shoveled into carts, and the man who did the shoveling would not trouble to lift out a rat even if he saw one....

**Source:** Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, Viking Press, 1905.

**Note:** *The Jungle* was a novel that described the conditions in the Chicago meat-packing industry.

1. What details from Upton Sinclair's book is the most disgusting to you?



**Source:** LOC Images

2. An old proverb is "Let the buyer beware." Some interpret this as it is the responsibility of the buyer to know what they are buying. Why would this be difficult when buying food?

