Name:



# Staging the question: When good food goes bad

All the materials on the left were used in the early 1900s to preserve food, add ﬂavor, or enhance color. Can you match the old-timey “special sauce” to the food it was used in?



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pond water | ● |  |  |
|  |  | ● | Meat  *(two additives)* |
|  |  | ● |
| Formaldehyde | ● |  |  |
| Arsenic | ● | ● | Leafy vegetables |
| Chalk | ● | ● | Cough syrup |
| Glycerin | ● | ● | Peas |
| Tincture of opium  (laudanum) | ● | ● | Chocolate |
| “Paris Green” paint by Sherwin Williams | ● | ● | Cheese |
| Lead | ● |  |  |
| Borax | ● | ●  ●  ● | Milk  *(three additives)* |
| “Rough-On-Rats”  rat poison | ● |  |  |

Name:

# Supporting question 1: What did the Poison Squad experiments reveal?

**Directions**: In the left column, use the sources to list food safety issues that were identified in the food industry through Dr. Wiley’s experiments. In the right column, brainstorm possible actions that the government could take to solve these problems. If the source is a written document, be sure to use an exact quote!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Food safety issues identified by source 1A (The Borax Test)** | **Possible governmental solutions** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Food safety issues identified by source 1B (The Wiley Report)** | **Possible governmental solutions** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

What did the “Poison Squad” experiments reveal?

Name:

# Supporting question 2: How accurate was Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*?

**Directions:** Upton Sinclair made some sensational claims in his novel. Before acting, President Roosevelt and Congress needed to verify those claims. Your job is to help the President and Congress by verifying each passage from *The Jungle* found below. As a team, review each source and find at least one quote that backs up Upton Sinclair’s assertions. When you’ve found it, write it in the space provided. Once you are done, answer the supporting question individually.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Read Source 2A:** Excerpts from Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle* | **Source 2B:** Neill-Reynolds Report | **Sources 2C-2G:** Visit the Stock Yards of the 1890s | **Source 2H:** [How "The Jungle"](https://youtu.be/OuukM9OY-is?si=i6me-LcM3_10KJLc) [Changed American Food](https://youtu.be/OuukM9OY-is?si=i6me-LcM3_10KJLc) |
| 1. “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 moldy and white – it would be dosed with borax and glycerin, and dumped into the hoppers, and made over again for home consumption.” |  |  |  |
| 2. “There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had tramped and spit uncounted billions of consumption germs.” |  |  |  |
| 3. “There was no place for the men to wash their hands before they ate their dinner, and so they made a practice of washing them in the water that was to be ladled into the sausage.” |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Read Source 2A:** Excerpts from Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle* | **Source 2B:** Neill-Reynolds Report | **Sources 2C-2G:** Visit the Stock Yards of the 1890s | **Source 2H:** [How "The Jungle"](https://youtu.be/OuukM9OY-is?si=i6me-LcM3_10KJLc) [Changed American Food](https://youtu.be/OuukM9OY-is?si=i6me-LcM3_10KJLc) |
| 4. “All of their sausage came out of the same bowl, but when they came to wrap it they would stamp some of it "special," and for this they would charge two cents more a pound.” |  |  |  |
| 5. “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.” |  |  |  |
| 6. “There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it”. |  |  |  |

What are some possible solutions to the problems seen in these sources?

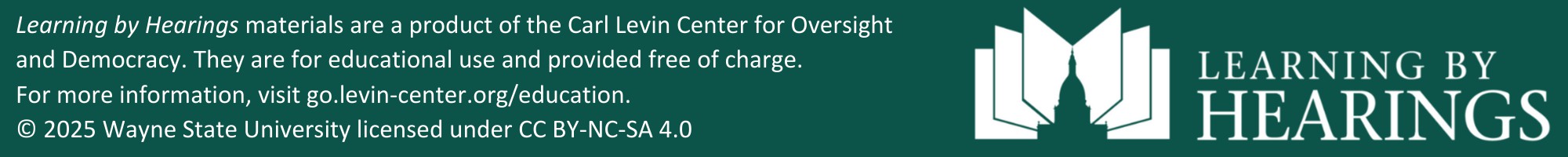
How accurate was Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*?



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Supporting question 3** | What did the US Government do with the evidence from the Hygienic Table Trials (Wiley) and the Neil-Reynolds Report (Sinclair)? |
| **Source 3D** | Food Safety Timeline |
| *See list of references on page 2* | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1899** | Bad meat leads to the death of American soldiers in the Spanish-American War. Future  President Theodore Roosevelt gives testimony to Congress regarding the unsafe conditions of the food. |
| **November 1902** | Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, with $5,000 in Congressional funding, begins the Hygienic Table Trials  (known in the press as the "Poison Squad"). |
| **1904** | Results of the Hygienic Table Trials experiments with Borax published. Proves Borax is injurious to health. Lobbying from industry groups and lack of Congressional interest led to the Secretary of Agriculture refusing to publish the future reports publicly, although the reports are still compiled and filed by Wiley. The Hygienic Table Trials officially ran until 1907, when  the Pure Food and Drug Act takes effect. |
| **February 25, 1905 –**  **November 4, 1905** | Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* is serialized in the Socialist newspaper *Appeal to Reason*. Sinclair hopes it will shed light on the horrible conditions faced by immigrant workers in the meatpacking industry. As he later put it: “I aimed for the public’s heart, and by accident hit it in  the stomach.” |
| **February 26, 1906** | *The Jungle* is published as a book. |
| **March 10, 1906** | Riding a groundswell of public outrage, Sinclair urges President Roosevelt to send independent investigators to the meatpacking houses of Chicago. Despite the Bureau of Animal Industry already investigating, Pres. Roosevelt eventually agrees and handpicks Commissioner of Labor  Charles P. Neill and social worker James Bronson Reynolds as investigators. |
| **April 3, 1906** | The Bureau of Animal Industry finishes its official investigation and reports to the House  Committee on Agriculture on the appalling conditions in the Chicago Stockyards. |
| **May 21, 1906** | Senator Albert Beveridge introduces legislation in the Senate that is known at the time as “the  Beveridge Amendment.” It forms the core of what will become the Meat Inspection Act, which ultimately becomes law as an amendment in a House funding bill. |
| **June 4, 1906** | Independent investigators Neill and Reynolds submit their findings about horrific, unsanitary conditions in the Chicago Stockyards to Pres. Roosevelt and the House Committee on Agriculture. That same day, Pres. Roosevelt sends a letter to the House Committee supporting  the findings and urging reforms. |
| **June 7-8, 1906** | Neill and Reynolds testify to their findings in front of the House Committee on Agriculture. |
| **June 30, 1906** | Roosevelt signs into law the Pure Food and Drug Act (known in the press as ‘Wiley’s Law’) and  the Pure Meat Inspection Act. |

What do you notice about the amount of change (and the speed of that change surrounding food reform) before *The Jungle* was published compared to after?



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Supporting question 3** | What did the US Government do with the evidence from the Hygienic Table Trials (Wiley) and the Neill-Reynolds Report (Sinclair)? |
| **Source 3E** | Excerpt from “Progressivism in the White House” |
| Corbett, P. S., Janssen, V., Lund, J. M., Pfannestiel, T., Waskiewicz, S., & Vickery, P. (2014). 21.4 Progressivism in the  White House. In *U.S. History*. OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/books/us-history/pages/1-introduction> | |

*This is an excerpt from an online textbook called OpenStax, published by Rice University. This excerpt is taken from a longer chapter on the Progressive Era.*

**Professed:** publicly declared

**Corroborate**: confirm; support with evidence

**Deplorable:** terrible

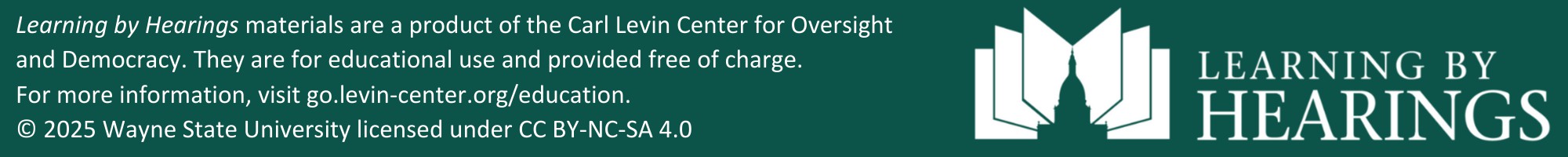
**Adulterated:** altered (in a bad way)

“Early in his second term, Roosevelt read muckraker Upton Sinclair’s 1905 novel and exposé on the meatpacking industry, The Jungle. Although Roosevelt initially questioned the book due to Sinclair’s **professed** Socialist leanings, a subsequent presidential commission investigated the industry and **corroborated** the **deplorable** conditions under which Chicago’s meatpackers

processed meats for American consumers. Alarmed by the results and under pressure from an outraged public disgusted with the revelations, Roosevelt moved quickly to protect public health. He urged the passage of two laws to do so. The first, the Meat Inspection Act of 1906, established a system of government inspection for meat products, including grading the meat based on its quality. This standard was also used for imported meats. The second was the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, which required labels on all food and drug products that clearly stated the materials in the product. The law also prohibited any “**adulterated**” products, a measure aimed at some specific, unhealthy food preservatives. For Sinclair, this outcome was a disappointment nonetheless, since he had sought to draw attention to the plight of workers in the slaughterhouses, not the poor quality of the meat products. “I aimed at the public’s heart, and by accident, I hit it in the stomach,” he concluded with frustration.”

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Why was Roosevelt originally skeptical of Sinclair’s claims?
2. According to this document, who seems to be responsible for the reforms to food safety laws in the United States?
3. What was the original purpose of Sinclair’s novel?



Name:

# Compelling question: Would the food regulation laws of the early 20th century have happened without the publication of

***The Jungle*?**

**Directions**: Based on the documents you’ve reviewed (both from the Hygienic Table Trials and the investigation into *The Jungle*, write a response to the compelling question. Your response should include a minimum of three pieces of evidence from the documents your group read. You may use a document twice, but you should cite a different part of the document each time.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Claim**: A claim is a statement that answers the question. It will usually only be one sentence in length. The claim does not include any explanation, reasoning,  or evidence so it should not include any transition words such as “because.” | | |
|  | | |
| **Evidence:** The evidence is the data used to support the claim. It can be either quantitative or qualitative depending on the question. The evidence should be a  direct quote or paraphrase from one of the sources. Don’t forget to include a citation! | | |
| **Evidence #1** | **Evidence #2** | **Evidence #3** |
|  |  |  |
| **Reasoning:** The reasoning is the explanation of “why and how” the evidence supports the claim. This is written in your own words. | | |
| **Reasoning #1** | **Reasoning #2** | **Reasoning #3** |
|  |  |  |

