

Name:

Date:

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**Jacob Riis: *How the Other Half Lives***

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**U.S. History & Government**

**Directions: Browse the photos on the following website to answer the questions below.**

[http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2008/02/27/nyregion/20080227\\_RIIS\\_SLIDESHOW\\_index.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2008/02/27/nyregion/20080227_RIIS_SLIDESHOW_index.html?_r=0)

1. Describe five urban problems that you can observe in the pictures and illustrations.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

2. Why do you think that Jacob Riis (the photographer) chose to inform people about these problems by using pictures instead of just writing an article?

3. Look at the photograph of the “Street Arabs.” These boys, like many of Riis’ subjects, were asked to pose for the camera. Does this make his work more or less accurate as a historical source? Explain.

4. How do captions such as “Slept in the Cellar Four Years” and “The Baby’s Playground” influence the viewer’s understanding of the pictures?

5. Would Riis have been better off if he stuck to more straight-forward descriptions such as “Market Scene,” “Home of the Italian Rag-picker,” or “Bunks in a Seven Cent Lodge?”