

City Life During the Gilded Age:

Identify the following cities on the map:

- Boston
- Pittsburgh
- Chicago
- San Francisco
- New York City



The following passage is from *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis, a journalist and photographer who documented New York tenement life in the late 1800s. After you read it, answer the questions below.

“This gap between dingy brick-walls is the yard. That strip of smoke-colored sky up there is the heaven of these people. Do you wonder the name does not attract them to the churches? That baby’s parents live in the rear tenement here. She is at least as clean as the steps we are now climbing. There are plenty of houses with half a hundred such in. The tenement is much like the one in front we just left, only fouler, closer, darker— we will not say more cheerless. The word is a mockery. A hundred thousand people lived in rear tenements in New York last year. Here is a room neater than the rest. The woman, a stout matron with hard lines of care in her face, is at the washtub. “I try to keep the childer clean,” she says, apologetically, but with a hopeless glance around.”

—Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*

1. Which facts from the paragraph can be confirmed?
2. What sources might you check to confirm some of these facts?
3. List two things from the passage that could not be confirmed.
4. Why are these two things not able to be confirmed?

As you read the passage, notice which facts from Jacob Riis's passage could be confirmed.

1. What problems resulted from the rapid growth of cities?
2. What can you determine life in tenements was like from the picture on page 675?
3. Who were two people dedicated to improving city life? How did they?
4. **Tenement Life:**

Causes	Effects