Questions:

1. Henry George was an economist. What does this mean? Who is Henry George? Tell me a little about who he is (background, race, etc.), what his viewpoints are, and how those viewpoints and background may bias his account.
2. What does the word progress mean?
3. What does the author mean when they say "that the average of comfort, leisure, and refinement has been raised?"
4. What is a wedge? What is the wedge that Henry George is talking about?

Primary Source #9

Introduction: Henry George was an economist, land reformer, and writer. George edited the San Francisco Chronicle and in 1871 founded the San Francisco Daily Evening Post. He detailed his economic theories in the book Progress and Poverty (1879). This famous work of social protest was widely read and inspired the creation of many "Henry George Societies" - organizations that promoted George's economic views.

It is true that wealth has been greatly increased and that the average of comfort, leisure, and refinement has been raised; but these gains are not general. In them the lowest classes do not share. ... The new forces [of progress] ... do not act upon the society from underneath ... but strike it at point intermediate between top and bottom. It was as though an immense wedge were being forced, not underneath society but through society. Those who are above the point of separation are elevated, but those who are below are crushed down.

Primary Source #10

Stephen Crane was the last of 14 children born to a Methodist minister who died when Stephen was nine. He lived the down-and-out life of a penniless artist who became well-known as a poet, journalist, social critic and realist. He began writing for newspapers in 1891 when he settled in New York City. After he wrote Red Badge of Courage, which earned Crane international acclaim at age 24, he was hired as a reporter in the American West and Mexico. He later covered the Spanish-American War for Joseph Pulitzer's New York World.

(Flip Over)
Excerpt from *In the Depths of a Coal Mine* by Stephen Crane *McClure's Magazine*, August 1894.

We came upon other little low-roofed chambers, each containing two men, a "miner," who makes the blasts, and his "laborer," who loads the coal upon the cars and assists the miner generally. Great and mystically dreadful is the earth from a mine's depth. Man is in the implacable grasp of nature. It has only to tighten slightly, and he is crushed like a bug. His loudest shriek of agony would be as impotent as his final moan to bring help from that fair land that lies, like Heaven, over his head. There is an insidious, silent enemy in the gas. If the huge fanwheel on the top of the earth should stop for a brief period, there is certain death. If a man escape the gas, the floods, the "squeezes" of falling rock, the cars shooting through little tunnels, the precarious elevators, the hundred perils, there usually comes to him an attack of "miner's asthma" that slowly racks and shakes him into the grave. Meanwhile the miner gets three dollars per day, and his laborer one dollar and a quarter.

5. According to Stephen Crane, what working conditions did miner have to endure in the coal mines?

6. Who was Stephen Crane and how might that bias his perspective?

**Primary Source #11**

*The Jungle* (by Upton Sinclair) focused the nation's attention on immigrant workers in the meatpacking industry. Upton Sinclair's novel showed bosses forcing human beings to live and work like jungle animals. He also described, in shocking detail, how meat was handled. Sinclair published his book in 1906. Later that same year, the government passed the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act. Many Americans even gave up eating meat for a while.

Vocabulary to help you: borax white powder used in manufacturing and cleaning; glycerine sweet, sticky liquid; hoppers containers; ladled added with a large spoon; gelatine material obtained from animal tissues; Consumption was once used to refer to tuberculosis, a highly contagious disease that usually affects the lungs. Now tuberculosis is treated with antibiotics, but years ago it was often fatal (today the word consumption generally means to eat or use something); The Meat Inspection Act required the federal government to inspect all meat that was shipped across state lines.

There was never the least attention paid to what was cut up for sausage; there would come back from Europe old sausage that had been rejected, and that was moldy and white—it would be dosed with borax and glycerine, and dumped into hoppers, and made over again for home consumption. 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. 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 would 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 and they would die, and then rats, bread, and meat would go into the hoppers together . . . 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. There were the butt-ends of smoked meat, and the scraps of corn beef, and all the odds and ends of the waste of the plants, that would be dumped into old barrels in the cellar and left there. Under the system of rigid economy which the packers enforced, there were some jobs that it only paid to do once in a long time, and among these was the cleaning out of the waste barrels. Every spring they did it; and in the barrels would be dirt and rust and old nails and stale water—and cartload after cartload of it would be taken up and dumped into the hoppers with fresh meat, and sent out to the public's breakfast. Some of it they would make into "smoked" sausage—but as the smoking took time, and was therefore expensive, they would call upon their chemistry department, and preserve it with borax and color it with gelatine to make it brown. 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.
7. Define the term capitalism.
8. Define the term socialism.
9. Upton Sinclair was a socialist. How might this bias his perspective?
10. What details does Sinclair use to support his main idea about unhealthy working conditions? (be specific and use material from the reading)
11. The Jungle helped bring about the passage of food inspection laws. Sinclair once commented: "I aimed at the public's heart and by accident I hit their stomach." What did he mean? Why was he upset with the results?

Primary Sources #12-15

A- Cartoonist drew the slum tenements.
B- Excerpt from "The Conditions of the Working Class in England" by Friedrich Engels.
C- A Photograph of a New York City Tenement by Jacob Ris.
D- A photo of a tenement house cellar in Brooklyn.
Using all the information from Primary sources 12-15, answer the following questions:

12. Look at the photos above. Tell me what you notice about each (at least two). Tell me what you wonder about each (at least one). Tell me what you speculate about each (at least two).

13. What point do you think Engels was trying to make when he chose the title for his work? Explain by describing the conditions of the cities.

14. How effective is Engel's message? What makes it powerful or weak (depending on which you choose)?

15. Why did the poor agree to live in such conditions?

16. Why did government officials allow these conditions to continue?

17. Do similar conditions exist in the world today? Why or why not?