



This photo from Jacob Riis' book "How the Other Half Lives" shows the awful conditions of some tenements.

Jacob August Riis (May 3, 1849 – May 26, 1914) was a muckraking journalist known for using his photographic and journalistic talents to help the poor living in New York City. Riis, who came from a poor family and was even homeless for a time, used his job as a newspaper reporter to gather photos of the filthy, crowded immigrant slums. He attempted to improve the bad living conditions of poor people by exposing their living conditions to the middle and upper classes.

1. What are at least two dangers in the above photo?
2. Why did Riis show his photos to middle and upper class people?
3. Why are photographs a more effective METHOD of improving society than articles or cartoons?
4. Video: What new technology did Riis use to photograph the inner-city tenements?
5. Video: How many copies of Riis' book were sold?
6. Video: How did the audience react to Riis' slideshow?