

Warm-Up: Urban Sanitation



The rapid growth of cities produced serious problems. Garbage and horse manure (half a million pounds a day) accumulated in the streets and the sewers could not handle the flow of human waste. Fires broke out often and people died at an alarming rate from disease. One section of New York City was called the “lung block” because of how many of its residents were dying of tuberculosis. It was said that approaching visitors to the city could smell the stench from 6 miles away.

1. Describe what you see in the picture.
2. What was causing the filth and disease in the cities?
3. What problems were caused by the filth of cities in the late 1800's?
4. Why do you think city leaders allowed cities to become so dirty?
5. What is in place today to keep cities from becoming such a mess?