Upton Sinclair’s “The Jungle”

Sinclair’s investigation of the Chicago meatpacking industry flew off the shelves and informed

the country about the conditions at the places where they got the meat for their dinner. Use the

table and questions to discuss the problems facing the population at the time of the Progressives.

1. Fill in the following chart for four of the jobs discussed above.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Job Name | Actions of job | Risks of job | Risks to consumers |
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1. What kinds of problems are seen facing the workers in this meatpacking factory?

(Give 3 examples)

3. What kinds of problems could the consumers see from meat purchased from this company? (Give 3 examples)

4. What do you find most surprising in Upton Sinclair's account of the meatpacking industry around the turn of the century? Why?

5. What do you think was Sinclair's purpose for writing this piece?

6. How do you think readers reacted to The Jungle when it first came out?

7. What can the government do to protect the citizens of the United States from companies such as this?

8. What is the history of the government’s relationship with big businesses such as the meatpacking industry? What has the government done in the past with big business?

9. Combine your answers above with your conclusions drawn from the reading and answer the following question: What can society do to combat the problems facing workers and consumers such as those seen in “The Jungle”?