

Terrible Tenements

Late 1800's immigrants to America lived in the poorest and most crowded areas of the city. They lived in big apartment buildings called tenements. Tenement buildings, often five or six stories tall, were run-down and overcrowded.

One family shared a two-room apartment. The main room was used for cooking, eating, and as a bedroom for the kids. The parents had a tiny bedroom in the back. The toilet or "water closet" was outside the apartment and located in the hall. It was used by several families.

In older tenements, the individual apartments had no running water. There was a community faucet in the hallway on each floor. Many buildings had no heat or electricity.



Using the picture of an apartment in a tenement house in New York, examine the following statements to find evidence within the picture that is for the statement or against the statement.

Evidence For	Statement	Evidence Against
	Tenement houses in New York were NOT well cared for.	
	Tenement houses were nice places to live.	
	Tenement house apartments were large enough for each person to have his or her own room.	
	Tenement houses were clean and neat.	
	Tenement houses were crowded.	
	People were probably happy living in their tenement apartments.	