**Primary Sources: Social Darwinism & Eugenics. Read each excerpt carefully. Match it with the correct author, date, & description. Write on a SEPARATE sheet of paper [10 points].**

1. Man, like every other animal, has no doubt advanced to his present high condition through a struggle for existence… and if he is to advance still higher he must remain subject to a severe struggle… Hence our natural rate of increase, though leading to many and obvious evils, must not be greatly diminished by any means. There should be open competition for all men; and the most able should not be prevented by laws or customs from succeeding best and rearing the largest number of offspring.
2. Just as certain animals or plants become parasitic on other plants or animals, these families have become parasitic on society. They not only do harm to others by corrupting, stealing, or spreading disease, but they are actually protected and cared for by the state out of public money…. They take from society, but they give nothing in return. They are true parasites.
3. If this Act be a valid enactment, then the limits of the power of the State… to rid itself of those citizens deemed undesirable according to its standards, by means of surgical sterilization, have not been set… A reign of doctors will be inaugurated and in the name of science new classes will be added, even races may be brought with the scope of such regulation, and the worst forms of tyranny practiced.
4. Could such a law by enforced in the whole United States, less than four generations would eliminate 9/10 of the crime, insanity, and sickness of the present generation in our land. Asylums, prisons, and hospitals would decrease, and the problem of the unemployed, the indigent old, and the hopelessly degenerate would cease to trouble civilization.
5. It is better for all the world if, instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes. Three generations of imbeciles are enough.
6. These immigrants adopt the language of the native American; they wear his clothes; they steal his name; and they are beginning to take his women, but they seldom adopt his religion or understand his ideals, and while he is being elbowed out of his own home the American looks calmly abroad and urges on others the suicidal ethics which are exterminating his own race.
7. Civilization’s going to pieces. I’ve gotten to be a terrible pessimist about things. Have you read ‘The Rise of the Coloured Empires’ by this man Goddard?... The idea is if we don’t look out the white race will be—will be utterly submerged. It’s all scientific stuff; it’s been proved… It’s up to us who are the dominant race to watch out or these other races will have control of things.
8. We like to think of the Negro as inferior. We like to think of Negro-white crosses as a degradation of the white race. We look for evidence in support of that idea and try to persuade ourselves that we have found it even when the resemblance is very slight.
9. The feeble-minded are a parasitic, predatory class. They cause unutterable sorrow at home and are a menace and danger to the community…. Every feeble-minded person, especially the high-grade imbecile, is a potential criminal needing only the proper environment and opportunity for the development and expression of his criminal tendencies.
10. It is a first step with farmers and gardeners to endeavour to obtain good breeds of domestic animals and sedulously to cultivate plants, for it pays them well to do so. They question was then forced upon me—Could not the race of men be similarly improved? Could not the undesirables be got rid of and the desirables multiplied?

**Match the correct primary source quotations on the front of the handout with the accompanying descriptions and writers below.**

1. Virginia attorney **Irving Whitehead’s** warning in the Supreme Court case, Buck vs. Bell, that the power of government to sterilize those deemed undesirable oversteps its bounds and would lead down a path of tyrannical rule by doctors [[April 1927](http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/eugenics/3-buckvbell.cfm)].
2. Novelist **F. Scott Fitzgerald’s** character Tom Buchanan asks about a prominent eugenicist’s book that contends the white race will disappear if something isn’t done about the other races [*The Great Gatsby*, 1925].
3. The father of eugenics, **Francis Galton**, draws a direct parallel between selective breeding of plants and animals and selecting the best humans to improve humanity. [*Life, Letters & Labours of Francis Galton*, 1914, 1924, 1930, edited by [Karl Pearson](http://galton.org/pearson/index.html)].
4. Biology textbook author, **George William Hunter** draws direct parallel between parasites among plants & animals and parasitic humans; he describes the harm that these true parasites inflict upon society along with the financial burden they place on the public. [*A Civic Biology*, 1914].
5. **Charles Darwin** states that mankind’s increase in population should not be interfered with laws or customs; the struggle for existence should remain an open competition [[*The Descent of Man*](http://darwin-online.org.uk/EditorialIntroductions/Freeman_TheDescentofMan.html), 1871].
6. Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, **Oliver Wendell Holmes**, rules that a compulsory sterilization law in Virginia is constitutional; better for society to sterilize imbeciles rather than executing criminals or letting the feeble-minded starve to death [[Supreme Court Ruling, Buck versus Bell](http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/html/eugenics/static/images/260.html), May 1927].
7. American geneticist **William Castle** says that scientists assume that blacks are inferior and look for evidence to support this assumption, even when the evidence isn’t very convincing. [*Science*, 1930]
8. Wealthy & socially prominent New York lawyer, **Madison Grant**, argues that immigrants adopt many things making them appear to be Americans but ultimately these inferior immigrants will bring the country down [[*The Passing of the Great Race*](http://www.archive.org/stream/passingofgreatra00granuoft/passingofgreatra00granuoft_djvu.txt), 1916].
9. Pioneer of American special education, **Walter Fernald**, links feeble-mindedness to criminality; he explicitly says that all feeble-minded persons are just criminals waiting to happen [“[The Burden of Feeblemindedness](http://brandeisspecialcollections.blogspot.com/2011/08/howe-library-collection.html),” 1912].
10. Brown University biology professor, **Herbert E. Walter**, argues the many benefits of a sterilization law for virtually eliminating a wide array of American social problems [*Genetics: An Introduction*, 1913].