

Section 2 of *The Living Century*: The Great Escape

Directions: After reading the section “The Great Escape” from *The New York Times Magazine* article “The Living Century,” respond to the following questions:

What did economist Angus Deacon define as the “great escape?”	
Why were increases in life expectancy more egalitarian, or fair and equal, in the early 20th century than they had been in the past?	
How was the process of discovering and spreading the practice of milk pasteurization similar to the process developed to treat water?	
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Johnson describes the FDA in the early 1900s as “toothless.” What was the role of the FDA then and how has it changed?	
What is penicillin and what does it do? Who was involved in the discovery and expanded	

use of penicillin, and how? (Clue: Several people were involved!)	
Why does the author describe the invention of penicillin and other antibiotics as, “a more general turning point in the history of medicine?” How did the development of antibiotics lead to new medical treatments?	
What are randomized control trials (RCTs), and how did they lead to the development of more effective medicines?	