**The Omnivore’s Dilemma**  Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: As you are reading the class handout copied from the book, please answer the following questions. Answer them carefully and thoughtfully! Please do NOT remove the reading handout from the classroom. Turn in your answers at the end of the class.

**Introduction**

1. Cite specific details from the text to describe the potato farm.
2. What is a feedlot? How does Pollan describe it?
3. What is the dilemma that we omnivores face?
4. List the four food chains.
5. Why is this section called “The Pleasure of Eating”? (what is the point of this book?)

**Chapter One: How Corn Took Over America**

1. Why does the author say in bold print “It’s all corn”? List ten (10) examples from pages 18-20.
2. List eight (8) uses for corn that would explain why corn became so popular among the early European settlers in America.
3. When did corn (or teosinte) spread to South America?
4. When did corn spread to South Africa?
5. What did traders purchase with corn in West Africa?
6. How has corn domesticated us?

**Chapter Two: The Farm**

1. Contrast the typical Iowa farm in 1919 with the Naylor farm now.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Typical 1919 farm** | **Naylor farm now** |
| Crops |  |  |
| Animals |  |  |
| Customers |  |  |
| One farmer fed \_\_\_\_\_\_ people |  |  |

1. After reading the story of Frankenstein, tell why this section is called Frankenseeds.
2. Why were animals taken off farms and put into feedlots?
3. List four terms and their definitions, which are important for understanding this chapter.
4. How has government policy shaped corn production and, thus, in part, what we eat?
5. Explain the technological advances that led to these changes in farming.

**Chapter Three: From Farm to Factory**

1. What is the connection between bombs & fertilizer?
2. List three ways that the modern farm is like a factory.
3. What is the effect of nitrogen pollution in the Gulf of Mexico?
4. Why are so many farmer going bankrupt?
5. What is the law of supply and demand?