

# The Red Cross

WORKSHEET A

1. Read the story and then answer the questions on Worksheet B.

**J**ean Henri Dunant was born in Geneva on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1828. His family were religious, humanitarian and civic-minded, qualities which would define the life of Dunant. As a young man, he travelled in France, Belgium and Holland as a representative of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

Dunant entered business at the age of 26, working for a Genevan company in Sicily and North Africa. He did well in his ventures and in 1859 acquired some land in Algeria which he wanted to develop. However, he needed permission from Emperor Napoleon III and decided to meet him and speak to him face to face. At the time, Napoleon was trying to drive the Austrians out of Italy and was leading the French and Italian armies against them. Dunant reached Napoleon near the Italian town of Solferino. He arrived in time to witness one of the bloodiest battles of the nineteenth century, in which nearly 30,000 were killed or wounded.

Dunant was so shocked by what he had seen that he set out a plan to form a society which would provide care for the wartime wounded. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1864, after much hard work, twelve nations signed an international treaty, commonly known as the Geneva Convention, which agreed to guarantee neutrality to members of the society of medical carers, who would be known as the Red Cross.

During this time, Dunant had neglected his business, preferring the life of philanthropist helping those in need. In 1867 he was declared bankrupt. The collapse of his business also brought down many of his friends and colleagues in Geneva, who couldn't forgive him. Poor and rejected by his friends, Dunant lived like a beggar. He couldn't afford new clothes and had to blacken his coat with ink and whiten his shirt with chalk.

For the next twenty years he disappeared into solitude. He moved from place to place as an unknown, finally settling in the Swiss village of Heiden. The local teacher, Wilhelm Sonderegger, recognised Dunant and told the world he was still alive. But no-one seemed interested.

In 1892, Dunant grew ill and moved to the hospice at Heiden. However, instead of dying he was recognised again and in 1895 the world heaped prizes and awards onto him in honour of his many achievements. Rather than spend any of the prize money, Dunant preferred to bequeath it, on his death in 1910, to philanthropic organisations in Norway and Switzerland.



2. Answer the questions.

Write your answers in the puzzle below to reveal the name of one of the prizes that Dunant won (in 1901). Incidentally, he was the first to win it.

1. What is the name of the treaty signed in 1864 – the Geneva \_\_\_\_\_? (10)
2. When he died, he gave his money to charities in Norway and \_\_\_\_\_. (11)
3. When he was poor, what did he put on his jacket to make it darker? (3)
4. What do we call someone who believes in helping people in need? (14)
5. What was the name of the French Emperor? (8)
6. What was the name of the organisation which Dunant founded? (3,5)
7. When he was poor, what did he put on his shirt to make it lighter? (5)
8. As a young man, he represented this Christian association. (1,1,1,1)
9. What's the name of the village he finally settled in? (6)
10. What do we call a type of hospital, or care home, for people who are dying? (7)
11. This is the Italian town where 30,000 died in 1859. (9)
12. What was the name of the teacher who discovered Dunant was still alive? (11)
13. How do we describe a person, or company, who has officially admitted that they have no money and cannot pay what they owe? (8)
14. As a young Christian, Dunant travelled to France, Belgium and \_\_\_\_\_. (7)
15. In which city was Dunant born? (6)

