
The Red Cross

WORKSHEET A

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a very poor country in Central Africa where there has been armed conflict for many years, the Red Cross is playing an important part in efforts to help the millions of civilians who have suffered in the fighting. Its staff, a mixture of local people and foreigners, distribute medicines and food, reunite family members who have become separated, and give seeds and tools to poor farmers in areas where the fighting has stopped and it is safe for them to return to their land.

This is just one example of the humanitarian work carried out in the world's war zones by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a network of non-governmental organizations with offices in more than 180 countries. (They usually use the name Red Cross in countries where Christianity is the main religion, and Red Crescent in Muslim countries.) During armed conflict, the Red Cross and Red Crescent also try to make sure that all sides respect the Geneva Conventions, which are international rules about the way wars should be fought. These rules are not only about the treatment of civilians but also the treatment of soldiers who are wounded or who become prisoners of war.

The story of the Red Cross began in 1859, during the Italian War of Independence, when a Swiss businessman called Henry Dunant arrived in the village of Solferino in Italy as a big battle was taking place nearby. After the battle, Dunant was horrified to see that thousands of wounded soldiers were left without any kind of medical help. Dunant spoke to the local people, however, and managed to get lots of them to help the wounded soldiers. He made sure they followed the principle of neutrality by treating all the soldiers equally, regardless of which side they had fought on. When he returned home, Dunant wanted to create a neutral organization that would help wounded soldiers on all sides during future wars. In 1863 he helped create the International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded, which later became the Red Cross.

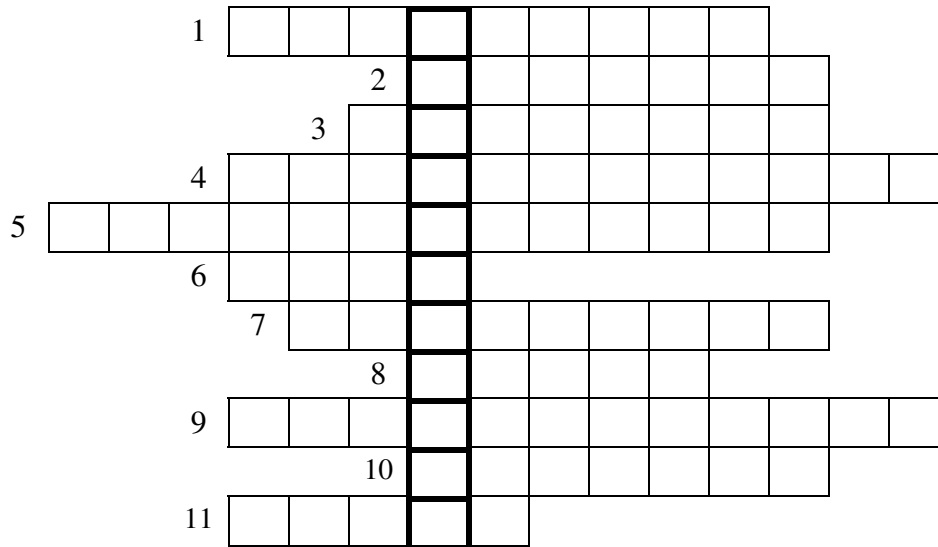
The work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement does not only take place in war zones, however, as it also plays a very important part in relief efforts after natural disasters. A recent example is the terrible earthquake in Haiti in January this year, when local and foreign Red Cross workers distributed medicines, tents and blankets, and helped restore supplies of drinking water.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the country in which the International Committee of the Red Cross (the body that coordinates the work of the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies during wars) has its headquarters will read from top to bottom. Note that there is a clue in the text on Worksheet A.



1. During armed conflicts, one of the things the Red Cross tries to do is make sure that the international rules about the treatment of _____ of war are respected.
2. The organization that later became the Red Cross was created to help _____ soldiers during armed conflicts.
3. Earthquakes are an example of a natural _____.
4. The Red Cross has been _____ medicines in both Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
5. There are Red Cross or Red Crescent _____ in more than 180 countries.
6. During wars, the Red Cross does not treat soldiers on one _____ differently from those on the other.
7. Henry Dunant was _____ by what he saw at Solferino in 1859.
8. Many of the Red Cross workers in Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo are _____ people.
9. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement does _____ work.
10. The Red Cross works as a _____ organization during armed conflicts.
11. The Red Cross has given _____ to farmers in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Fill in the gaps to complete the text.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a very poor country in Central Africa where there has been (1) **ar** _ _ **d** conflict for many years, the Red Cross is playing an important part in efforts to help the millions of (2) _ _ **vil** _ _ _ _ who have (3) _ _ **ff** _ _ **ed** in the fighting. Its staff, a mixture of local people and foreigners, distribute medicines and food, (4) _ _ **unite** family members who have become separated, and give seeds and tools to poor farmers in areas where the fighting has stopped and it is safe for them to return to their land.

This is just one example of the humanitarian work (5) **car** _ _ _ _ **o** _ _ in the world's war zones by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a (6) _ _ _ **work** of non-governmental organizations with offices in more than 180 countries. (They usually use the name Red Cross in countries where Christianity is the main religion, and Red (7) _ **resc** _ **n** _ in Muslim countries.) During armed conflict, the Red Cross and Red Crescent also try to make sure that all sides respect the Geneva Conventions, which are international (8) **ru** _ _ _ about the way wars should be (9) **f** _ _ _ _ **t**. These rules are not only about the treatment of civilians but also the treatment of soldiers who are wounded or who become prisoners of war.

The story of the Red Cross began in 1859, during the Italian War of Independence, when a Swiss businessman called Henry Dunant arrived in the village of Solferino in Italy as a big battle was taking place (10) **near** _ _ . After the battle, Dunant was horrified to see that thousands of wounded soldiers were left without any kind of medical help. Dunant spoke to the local people, however, and managed to get lots of them to help the wounded soldiers. He made sure they followed the (11) **pri** _ **c** _ **ple** of (12) _ **eut** _ _ _ **ity** by (13) _ _ **eating** all the soldiers (14) _ **qu** _ **l** _ **y**, regardless of which side they had fought on. When he returned home, Dunant wanted to create a neutral organization that would help wounded soldiers on all sides during future wars. In 1863 he helped create the International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded, which later became the Red Cross.

The work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement does not only take place in war zones, however, as it also plays a very important (15) **p** _ _ **t** in (16) **r** _ **l** _ **ef** efforts after natural disasters. A recent example is the (17) _ _ **rr** _ **ble** (18) _ **a** _ **t** _ **q** _ **a** _ **e** in Haiti in January this year, when local and foreign Red Cross workers distributed medicines, tents and blankets, and helped (19) **rest** _ _ **e** supplies of (20) _ _ **ink** _ _ _ water.