

1. The Red Cross

This week's lesson is about one of the world's most highly respected humanitarian organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. May 8th, the birthday of the founder of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant, is World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Explain the meaning of 'humanitarian' and ask your students for examples of organizations in their country that do humanitarian work. Is there a humanitarian organization whose work your students particularly value or admire? Can your students think of any examples of international humanitarian organizations? Hopefully you will be able to elicit the name of the Red Cross or Red Crescent if you ask your students to think of an international humanitarian organization that works in war zones. Brainstorm on the subject of the Red Cross and Red Crescent – how much do the students already know about their work?
2. Hand out Worksheet A and give the students five to ten minutes to read through it. Encourage them to look up new vocabulary.
3. Divide the students into pairs, hand out Worksheet B and ask them to work together to complete the crossword.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students to put away Worksheets A and B or to temporarily hand them back to you. Then, keeping the students in pairs, hand out Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet A, and give them another ten minutes for the gap-fill exercise in which they have to complete the missing words. If the students cannot remember what the words are, encourage them to try to work them out from the context of the sentence. You might also want to point out that some of the words feature in the glossary (or, to make it more difficult, you could ask the students not to use their glossaries).
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. prisoners 2. wounded 3. disaster 4. distributing 5. organizations 6. side
7. horrified 8. local 9. humanitarian 10. neutral 11. seeds

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Switzerland* will read from top to bottom.

Exercise 2

1. armed 2. civilians 3. suffered 4. reunite 5. carried out 6. network
7. Crescent 8. rules 9. fought 10. nearby 11. principle 12. neutrality
13. treating 14. equally 15. part 16. relief 17. terrible 18. earthquake
19. restore 20. drinking

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/3811549.stm

A profile of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the BBC website, with links to other Red Cross-related articles on the right-hand side of the page.

Intermediate level and above.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_8280000/newsid_8288300/8288363.stm

An article from BBC *Newsround* on the relief efforts following the earthquake in Sumatra, Indonesia, in September 2009, which contains references to the Red Cross. Accessible to intermediate level.

<http://www.icrc.org/>

Website of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/>

Website of the British Red Cross. Intermediate level and above.