

Name: _____

Clara Barton

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Clara Barton was born on December 25, 1821. She lived in Washington, D.C., when the Civil War began in 1861. She heard stories of wounded and suffering soldiers. She felt that she needed to do something to help.

She urged people to donate bandages and medicine. She often delivered these supplies to the battlefield herself.

Clara wasn't finished helping when the war was over. Clara headed a group that searched for missing soldiers. This group also worked to identify the graves of unknown soldiers.

After four years of this work, Clara moved to Switzerland. It was there that she first learned about a group called the Red Cross. This group worked to help people who were suffering during times of war.



This photo of Clara Barton was taken in 1902.



Today the American Red Cross, which was founded by Clara Barton, provides shelter, food, and health care to victims of fire, hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters.

In 1873 Clara returned to the United States. In 1881 she started an American branch of the Red Cross. She served as its first president for over 20 years.

As the result of Clara's hard work and leadership, the Red Cross grew. The group still helps those who are suffering during times of war. Today, it also helps people suffering as a result of earthquakes, fires, floods, and other disasters.

Clara Barton retired from the Red Cross in 1904. She died 8 years later on April 12, 1912. Her legacy with the American Red Cross lives on.

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1. Place these events in sequential order.

Label each sentence 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th.

- _____ Barton helped search for missing Civil War soldiers.
- _____ The American Red Cross was founded by Barton.
- _____ Clara Barton persuaded people to donate medical supplies to help injured Civil War soldiers.
- _____ Barton moved away to Switzerland.
- _____ Barton moved back to America.
- _____ Barton learned about a Swiss charity group called the Red Cross, which helped people who were suffering during times of war.

2. Based on the information in the passage, which word best describes Clara Barton?

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| a. cautious | b. forgiving |
| c. easygoing | d. compassionate |

3. How has the American Red Cross changed since it was founded in 1881?

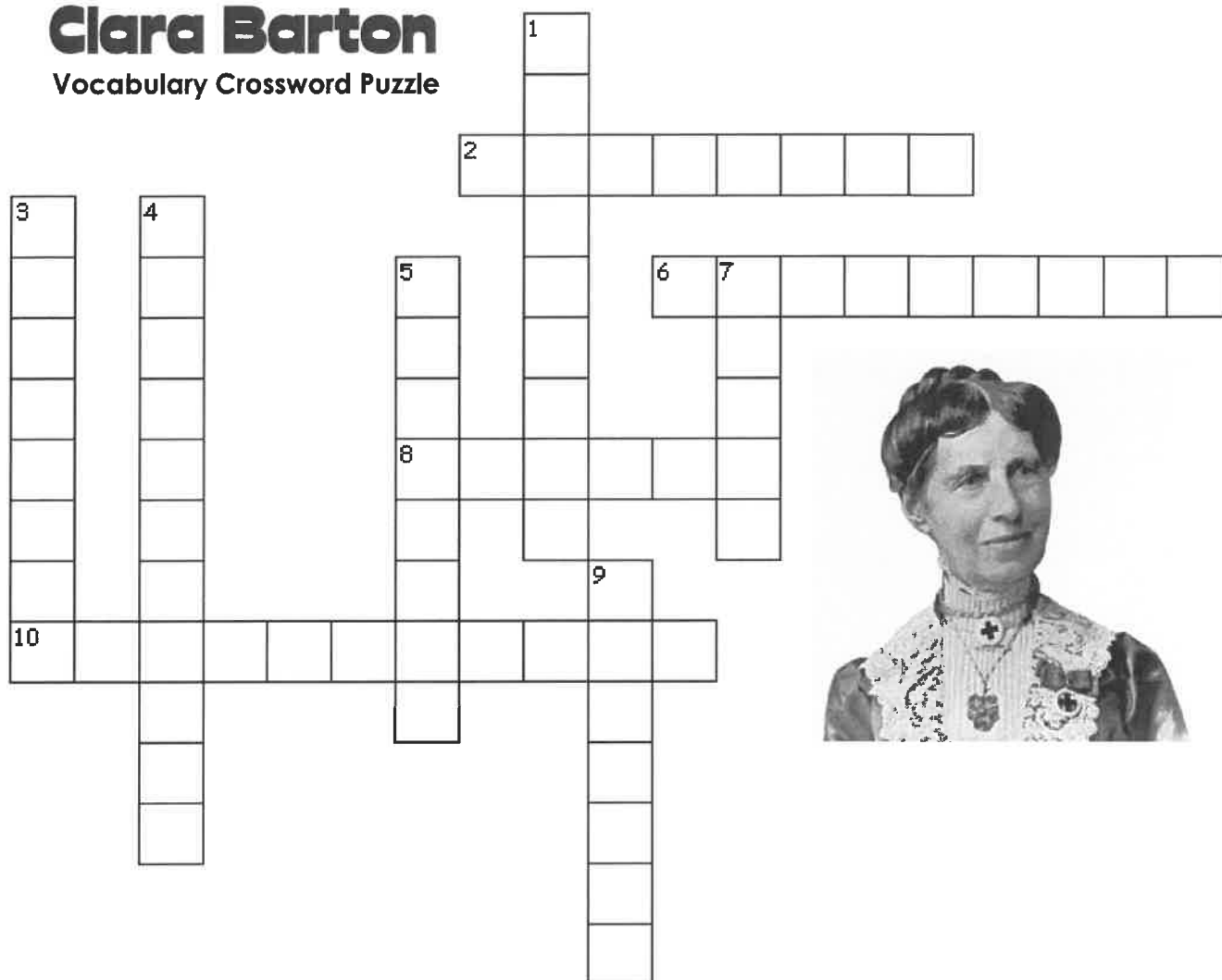
4. What was the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- | | |
|----|---|
| a. | to explain how dangerous being a soldier was during the Civil War |
| b. | to describe an important historical figure |
| c. | to compare and contrast the Red Cross in Switzerland and America |
| d. | to tell a fictional story about how the Red Cross began |

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Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle



Use words from the passage, "Clara Barton" to complete the puzzle.

Across

- 2. chemicals to make sick people better
- 6. state of pain
- 8. give to a good cause
- 10. country in central Europe

Down

- 1. head of a company or organization
- 3. coverings for wounds
- 4. place on land where part of a war is fought
- 5. people who serve in the army
- 7. persuaded; asked; begged
- 9. not known