

NAME:.....DATE:.....

Clara Barton: American Red Cross Founder

Clara Barton was born on December 25, 1821 in Massachusetts. As the youngest of five children, young Clara often felt as if she had six parents instead of two. Her older sisters were schoolteachers and they taught her everything they knew since they found the little girl to be an eager pupil.

In April 1860, the Civil War began. She asked the War Department if she could go to the battlefield to distribute medicine and food to the troops. Imagine their shock! No unmarried woman had ever gone to the battlefield before, but Barton was determined to go and she didn't stop until someone gave her permission. She had found a way to serve her country. Her work of soliciting and distributing supplies, as well as nursing the wounded was gruelling. She often criticized the Army about the lack of food and supplies for the fighting men. When the war was about to finish, she also set up an office to sort out the difficult business of locating and identifying prisoners, missing men, and the dead buried in unmarked graves. But she was ordered to go to Europe by her doctor for a rest cure in 1869.

While abroad, Barton came into contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross. After recovering, she returned to the USA and campaigned to establish an American branch of the Red Cross. In 1882, the US Senate ratified the Geneva Convention, forming the American Association of the Red Cross. Then, Barton became its president. Her subsequent domestic program was impressive. Her energy and commitment to humanitarian causes over a forty-year period made her a household name, a symbol of charitable self-sacrifice. However, her inflexibility forced her to resign in 1904 from the organization she had founded and built. Nevertheless, Barton remained active in relief work until her death in 1912 at the age of ninety-one.

QUESTIONS

1.- Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points using your own words (approximately 50 words; 1 point).

2.- Mark the following sentences true/false (T/F) according to the text. Then write the part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer (1 point; 0.25 each).

- a) Her siblings were her schoolteachers.
- b) Clara Barton couldn't help soldiers in the battlefield because she wasn't married.
- c) Clara first learned about the Red Cross while she was away from home.
- d) She was dismissed by the American government.

3. - Find the words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here (1 point; 0.25 each).

- a) enthusiastic

- b) established
- c) extraordinary
- d) dedication

4.- Pronunciation (1 point; 0.25 each).

- a) Write two words from the text with the sound /ɔ:/ as in always.
- b) Write two verbs from the text whose ending "ed" is pronounced /d/.
- c) Write two verbs from the text whose ending "ed" is pronounced /t/.
- d) Write two verbs from the text whose ending "ed" is pronounced /id/.

5.- Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the word or expression in italics (1.5 points; 0.5 points each).

- a) "When was the Red Cross founded in your country?" he asked Mary.
.....(R.S.)
- b) After recovering, she returned to the USA and campaigned to establish an American branch of the Red Cross. (Once)
.....
- c) She often criticized the Army about the lack of food and supplies for the fighting men.
The.....

6.- Are humanitarian organisations important today? Give reasons to explain your answer. (Approximately 120 words; 3 points)