### **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.



Preview

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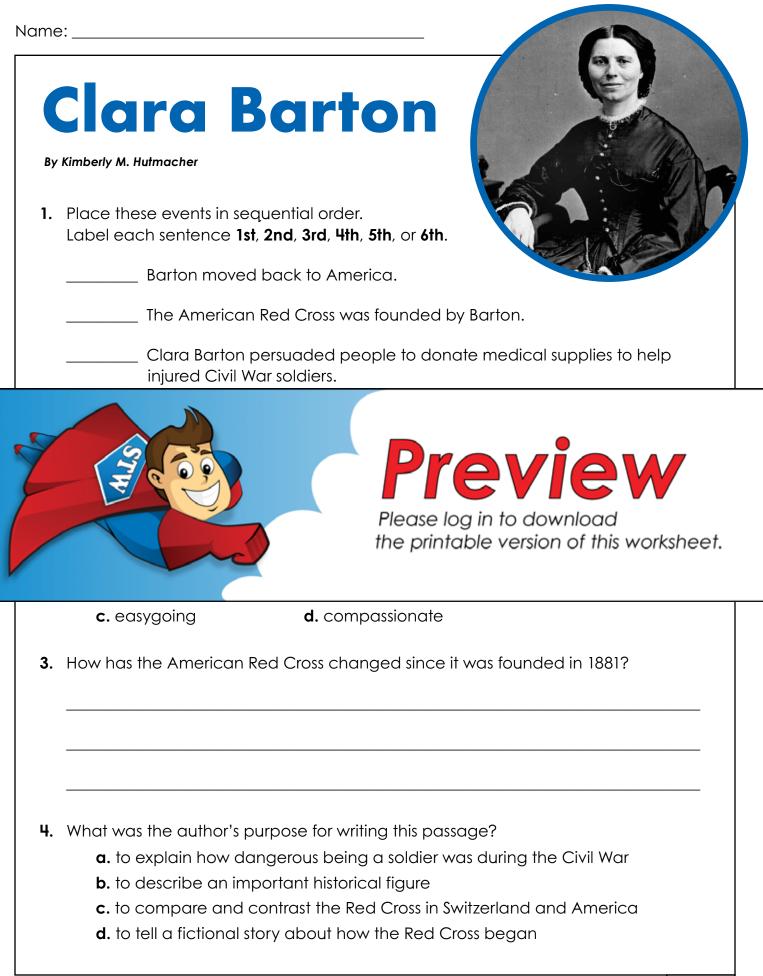
Today the American Red Cross provides shelter, food, and healthcare to victims of fire, hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters.

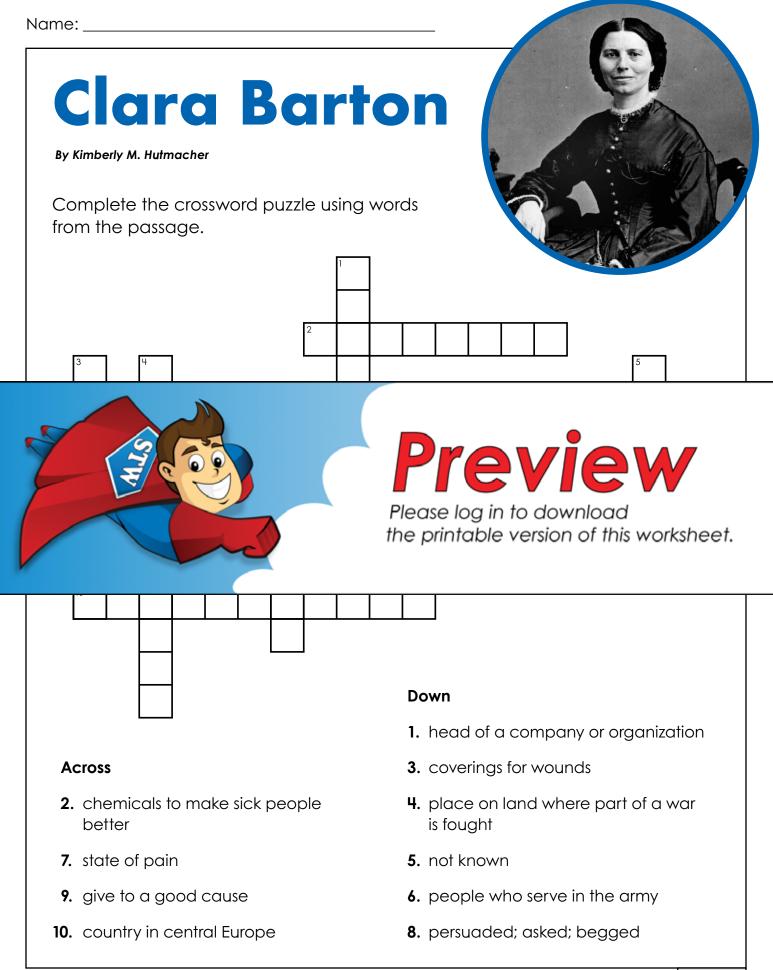
In 1873, Clara returned to the United States. In 1881, she started an American branch of the Red Cross. She served as its first president for over 20 years.

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.





#### **ANSWER KEY**

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**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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7. state of pain

- 9. give to a good cause
- 10. country in central Europe

- 5. not known
- 6. people who serve in the army
- 8. persuaded; asked; begged