Uncle Wiggly Wings

By Anita Kim Venegas

At the end of World War II, millions of families in Europe struggled to find housing, food, and jobs. Roads, factories, and farms had been destroyed in the war. People in Berlin struggled more than most because of the city's location partly inside Soviet-controlled territory.

The United States created a plan to help rebuild Europe. Military planes

He told the children of his plan, and they were very excited. He told them to watch for the plane that wiggled its wings from side to side. For this, Lieutenant Halvorsen became known as Uncle Wiggly Wings.

Halvorsen knew if he just dropped candy from the plane it would fall like



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of gum. Lieutenant Halvorsen broke the sticks into several pieces and handed them out.

Halvorsen wanted to give more to these children. He decided he would fly over the airport and drop candy!



Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen's airplane dropping candy to the children of Berlin.

Operation Little Vittles.

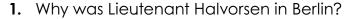
When the news of Halvorsen's project reached the United States, candy companies donated bubble gum and chocolate bars for the candy drops. Life Savers donated at least 1,200 rolls to the Little Vittles project.

Halvorsen received hundreds of drawings and thank-you letters from the children. They were not only grateful for the candy, but for the food and supplies that arrived daily. Recovery from the war took many years, but one pilot, Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen, made it a bit sweeter for the children of Berlin.

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- a. He was born there.
- **b.** He was bringing supplies to the people in the city.
- c. He got a job making candy in the city.
- d. He was learning to be a pilot there.



a. Life Savers

b. chocolate



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Based on what you read in the article, what does the underlined word most likely mean?

- a. airplanes
- **b.** supplies of food
- **c.** military battles
- d. airports

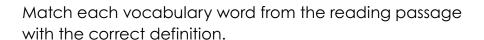
5.	What company donated at least 1,200 rolls of their product to the Little Vittles project?
6.	How did Lieutenant Halvorsen earn the nickname "Uncle Wiggly Wings"?



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1. ____ recovery

a. something used to treat illness

2. _____ territory

b. a title used for an officer of a certain rank in the military



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5. _____ runway

take off and land

6. Lieutenant

f. to give something in order to help those in need

7. ____ parachute

g. a small cloth for wiping your face

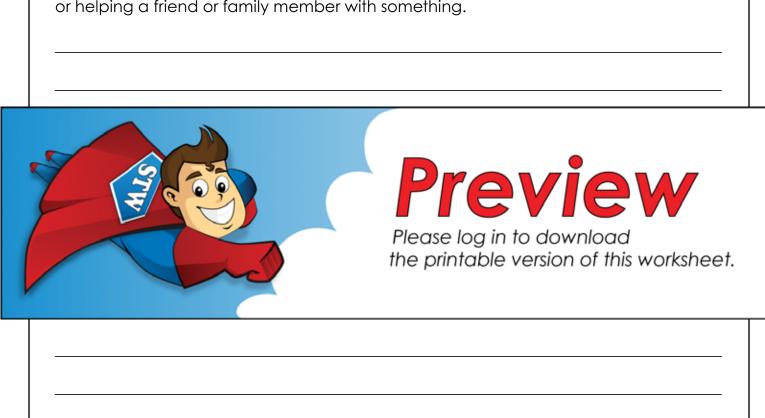
8. ____ cargo

h. a piece of gear, usually made of cloth, that is used to soften the drop from an airplane

9. ____ donate

i. goods carried on a vehicle

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	00,	' you learned how or v children after World		V
to help people.	This can include vo	nething you've done lunteering for an org er with something.	•	



ANSWER KEY

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1. Why was Lieutenant Halvorsen in Berlin?



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6. How did Lieutenant Halvorsen earn the nickname "Uncle Wiggly Wings"?

He earned the nickname by wiggling his airplane's wings

before dropping the candy.

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8. <u>i.</u> cargo

h. a piece of gear, usually made of cloth, that is used to soften the drop from an airplane

9. <u>f.</u> donate

i. goods carried on a vehicle