**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 t aught 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

**1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No  
marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.**

a) Clara Barton couldn’t help soldiers in the battlefield because she wasn’t married.  
b) Clara first learned about the Red Cross while she was away from home.

**2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions.**  
**Do not copy from the text.**  
a) What did Clara do just before the end of the American Civil War?

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b) What did she do after coming back from Europe?

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**3.- Find the words in the text that mean:**  
a) enthusiastic (paragraph 1)  
b) established (paragraph 2)  
c) extraordinary (paragraph 3)  
d) dedication (paragraph 3)

**4.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic.**  
Are humanitarian organisations important today? Give reasons to explain your  
answer.