



## Mini Page Heroes: Clara Barton



### Mini Fact:

Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross in 1881.

Sept. 17, 1862, is called the bloodiest day of the American Civil War.

It was the day of the Battle of Antietam (some call it the Battle of Sharpsburg), and a nurse named Clara Barton was there to help care for the wounded. As cannon shells exploded and other nurses ran for cover, she stayed by the surgeon's side, steadying the crude operating table. He later called her "the true heroine of the age, the angel of the battlefield."



Clara Barton  
(1821-1912)

photo courtesy Library of Congress

### A young nurse

But before that heroine became so famous, she was a shy, withdrawn little girl from a small town in Massachusetts.

Clara had always loved helping people. When she was 11, her brother David fell from a barn roof and was badly hurt. Young Clara would be his nurse. During the next two years, Clara left his bedside for only half an hour a day!

Nearly 30 years later, Clara Barton would spend day and night caring for the wounded and dying men of the Union Army during the American Civil War. She offered her tender

care to everyone — Northern soldiers, Southern prisoners of war, white men and black men.

### Carrying on good works

After the war, she headed the government's search for missing soldiers. She became one of the United States' most beloved heroes. For the remainder of her life after the Civil War, she continued her humanitarian work and built the organization we know as the American Red Cross.

### Helping others near and far

Clara Barton knew she had to go when the United States' worst flood disaster ever devastated Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1889. A dam had burst, sending a raging river into the mining town. In just four hours, floodwaters had killed more than 2,000 people.

Those left behind needed help. They needed Clara and her organization, the American Red Cross.

Clara spent four months in Johnstown helping the survivors, never once leaving the scene, even for a day. Working from giant tents, she directed hundreds of volunteers in distributing blankets, food, clothes and money. Flying above her command tent was the red-and-white flag that is now recognized everywhere in the United States and around the world — the Red Cross flag.



The Red Cross flag

photo courtesy the Red Cross

## The Red Cross

The Red Cross headquarters is a stone's throw from the White House in Washington, D.C. Clara Barton's Red Cross building stands as a sturdy symbol of the organization's commitment to lend a hand whenever and wherever disaster strikes. In the midst of earthquakes, floods, acts of terrorism, fires, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes or any other catastrophe, Red Cross volunteers are always there to help. Why? Because they have the same caring spirit as Clara Barton.

One of the United States' strengths has always been its people's willingness to help those whose lives are shattered by disaster. What about you? Do you want to pitch in? Get in touch with your local Red Cross office or contact the national office: American Red Cross National Headquarters, 2025 E St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006; redcross.org/support

## Resources



This issue of *Mini Page Heroes* is based on a chapter from "50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet" by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe. To order the book, go to [heroes4us.com](http://heroes4us.com) and click on "50 American Heroes Book" and "How to Purchase the Book."

### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/2ar6k14](http://bit.ly/2ar6k14)
- [rdcrss.org/2akZHD3](http://rdcrss.org/2akZHD3)

### At the library:

- "The Life and Times of Clara Barton" by Susan Sales Harkins and William H. Harkins

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Clara Barton are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find:

BARTON, BATTLE, BROTHER, CIVIL, CLARA, CROSS, DISASTER, FLOOD, HELP, HEROINE, HUMANITARIAN, MASSACHUSETTS, NURSE, RED, SERVICE, SOLDIERS, VOLUNTEERS, WAR.

S	E	A	E	W	E	N	I	O	R	E	H	O	L	N
S	L	R	A	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	T	Z	R	L
O	T	A	V	I	T	R	B	A	R	T	O	N	E	I
R	T	L	H	N	U	R	S	E	R	M	Q	F	D	V
C	A	C	F	S	R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	I
T	B	H	E	L	P	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	R	C
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	E	C	D	O	O	L	F
C	N	A	I	R	A	T	I	N	A	M	U	H	V	E
M	A	S	S	A	C	H	U	S	E	T	T	S	A	C
O	R	A	W	Y	R	E	T	S	A	S	I	D	N	K



## Mini Jokes



- Billy:** What 200-year event do buffaloes recognize?  
**Bob:** The bisontennial!

## Eco Note



Did you know that a gallon of paint or a quart of motor oil poured on the ground can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water? Don't dump harmful liquids onto the ground.

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com)

## Thank You



The Mini Page thanks Dennis Denenberg, former teacher, principal and university professor, and Lorraine Roscoe, a champion of heroes of every kind, for help with this issue.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching\\_guides.html](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html)

## Cook's Corner Creamy Fruit Salad

### You'll need:

- 1/2 cup chopped strawberries
- 1/2 cup blueberries
- 1/2 cup halved green grapes
- 1 small (3-ounce) can mandarin oranges, drained

- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 cup whipped topping



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

### What to do:

1. Combine strawberries, blueberries, grapes and oranges in a medium bowl.
2. Add honey and mix well.
3. Add the whipped topping by gently folding the fruit over the topping until well mixed.
4. Refrigerate and serve chilled.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. military horn (5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. painting or photo (7) \_\_\_\_\_
3. fill a suitcase (4) \_\_\_\_\_
4. not early (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. animal that wool comes from (5) \_\_\_\_\_
6. worker with hammer and nails (9) \_\_\_\_\_
7. word on a book's cover (5) \_\_\_\_\_

URE	BUG	LA	CT
TLE	PA	ENT	ER
SHE	CARP	EP	TE
CK	TI	LE	PI



Answers: bugle, picture, pack, late, sheep, carpenter, title.

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