

Finding information - 1

When you read text you can usually remember some of the information, but if you are asked about details you should read the text again to locate and check that your information is correct. Remember, the answer you are looking for is there in the text, you just need to find it.

Read the report.

The International Red Cross

1. When travelling in northern Italy during the hot summer of 1859, a Swiss banker named Henry Dunant witnessed such a horrifying sight that he was inspired to establish the organisation which we know today as the Red Cross.
2. The Battle of Solferino between Austria and the Franco-Sardinian Alliance had left many men dead, dying and abandoned. Those barely clinging to life were tortured by pain, thirst, searing heat and flies. Deeply moved by this harrowing scene, Dunant felt great compassion and was compelled to act, urging villagers from nearby Castiglione della Pieve to help care for the injured. In providing this practical support, these people became the first volunteers of the Red Cross.
3. In 1862, Dunant published a book, *A memory of Solferino*, in which he claimed that all societies have their vulnerable people and that the combined power of humankind could be harnessed to ease the suffering of such people, all over the world. He suggested forming a neutral relief agency of qualified volunteers to assist all sides during times of conflict. Such an agency could also be deployed in areas where natural disasters destroy lives and communities. He pointed out that suffering does not end when the battle or the storm is over. Help would always be required to assist people in repairing their shattered lives.
4. The International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross, was set up in October 1863 under the leadership of Henry Dunant. The committee wanted to guarantee protection for its medical services on the battlefield by having it officially recognised. In answer to their request, the Swiss government invited other nations to attend a diplomatic conference in Geneva in 1864. At that conference, representatives from twelve European countries and the United States of America signed an agreement which was to be the first Geneva Convention.
5. Since then, a number of changes and developments have occurred within the organisation, but the fundamental role of its volunteers has remained the same: to care for people in need, regardless of nationality. The emblem chosen by the original committee, a red cross on a white background, is recognised throughout the world as a symbol of hope and assistance. To date, 189 countries have accepted the terms of the Geneva Conventions.
6. In 1901, forty-two years after the Battle of Solferino, Henry Dunant was awarded the first Nobel Prize for Peace for his role in founding the International Red Cross. Through the tireless efforts of Henry Dunant and the first members of the Red Cross organisation, the world has a magnificent relief agency of volunteers who selflessly offer their services in so many ways. They are living proof that the combined power of humankind can indeed be harnessed to ease the suffering of people all over the world.





Learn how to find information in text.

- Underline the keywords in the question to make sure you know what information is needed.
- Find and underline the keywords in the text and read the information around them carefully.
- Always check all the possible answers before making a decision.

1. *What moved Henry Dunant so deeply that he felt compelled to act?*

- (a) The dead and injured encouraged flies and disease.
- (b) Looters were stealing from the dead and injured.
- (c) No-one was burying the dead.
- (d) So many abandoned men were tortured by pain, thirst, heat and flies.

Choosing the best answer

- (a) Although the scene would encourage flies and eventually disease, the text does not give this as a reason for Dunant's feelings. This is not a good answer.
- (b) The text does not mention looters, so this is not a good answer.
- (c) The text says that many men were dead but Dunant was more interested in helping and caring for the injured. This could be a possible answer.
- (d) This describes the scene which deeply moved Dunant, compelling him to act. This is the best answer.

2. *What did Dunant mean when he said **that suffering does not end when the battle or storm is over?** (Paragraph 3)*

- (a) Enemies still dislike one another.
- (b) There will always be wars and destructive natural forces.
- (c) People are still upset even after the war or disaster.
- (d) People need assistance to rebuild their shattered lives after war or disaster.

Choosing the best answer

- (a) This may be so, but it is not mentioned in the text. This is not a good answer.
- (b) This is probably true, but it is not mentioned in the text. This is not a good answer.
- (c) This is definitely true, but it is too general and is not mentioned in the text. This is not a good answer.
- (d) The sentence after this phrase says that help would always be required to assist these people. This is the best answer.

Finding information

Practice page



Use similar strategies to those on page 11 to find information.
(Clues are given to help you!)

1. What did Dunant claim about mankind in A memory of Solferino?
- (a) All people are vulnerable.
 - (b) It would be easy to help suffering people all over the world.
 - (c) There are people willing to help in all societies
 - (d) The power of mankind could be used to ease suffering in the world.

The best answer is

Think!
Find the title of the book in paragraph 3 and read on to find what he claimed.

2. What were Dunant's two key roles for a neutral relief agency?

- _____

- _____

Think!
Find the words *neutral relief agency* in paragraph 3 and read on to find what he wanted it to do.

3. Having established the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, why did Dunant want it officially recognised?

- (a) He wanted the world to know what a great idea it was.
- (b) He wanted the name changed to the Red Cross.
- (c) He wanted to ensure protection for its medical services on the battlefield.
- (d) He wanted other countries to be involved.

The best answer is

Think!
Underline the words *officially recognised* in paragraph 4 and read the whole sentence.

4. What was the outcome of the diplomatic conference held in Geneva in 1864?

- _____

Think!
Underline the keywords in paragraph 4. Read the whole sentence and the one following.

Finding information

On your own



Think about the strategies you have been using and work out these answers.

1. *What is the fundamental role of Red Cross volunteers?*

- (a) To give money to the organisation.
- (b) To be prepared to travel straightaway to a stricken area.
- (c) To make developmental changes in the organisation.
- (d) To care for people in need, whatever their nationality.

The best answer is .

2. (a) Who was Henry Dunant? _____

(b) How was he rewarded in 1901 for helping others? _____

3. *How many years after the Battle of Solferino was the International Committee of the Red Cross set up?*

- (a) 10 years
- (b) 15 years
- (c) 5 years
- (d) 4 years

The best answer is .

4. *Which word best describes how Henry Dunant felt when he was compelled to act?*

- (a) energetic
- (b) assertive
- (c) compassionate
- (d) kind

The best answer is .

5. *Find words in the text to complete the sentences.*

(a) The Battle of Solferino took place between _____ and the _____

(b) Villagers from _____ became the first volunteers of the Red Cross.

(c) Dunant's book, *A memory of Solferino*, was published in _____.

(d) The emblem of the Red Cross is a symbol of _____ and _____

(e) The International Committee of the Red Cross was previously known as the International Committee for _____.