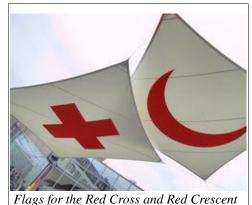
The American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is one of the most famous *organizations* in the United States. They give people food and housing and after disasters.



Many different disasters have hit the US: Hurricanes, fires, floods, and more. The first people who help after a disaster are called "first responders." Firefighters, *medics* and the National Guard are all first responders.

The Red Cross comes after the first responders. They help people who have no place to go or nothing to eat after a disaster. If you have no home, the Red Cross can help you find a hotel room or other place to stay. If you are hungry, they can serve you food. They give food to first responders, too. The Red Cross also has *volunteers* who speak other languages if you need an interpreter.



The American Red Cross has more than one million volunteers across the US. They teach *first aid* and other safety skills to about 12 million people a year.

The Red Cross is not part of the United States government. It is an independent organization. And the US is not the only country with a Red Cross. Almost every country has a Red Cross – or, in *Islamic* countries, a Red Crescent. About 97 million people around the world volunteer for the Red Cross or Red Crescent.

Vocabulary

- 1. *organization* noun A group of people working together. "We started an organization to help young parents go back to school."
- 2. *medic* noun Someone who gives medical help in an emergency. A medic may or may not be a doctor. "A medic saved my father when he had a heart attack."
- 3. *volunteer* noun and verb Someone who works for free. "The Red Cross has thousands of volunteer doctors and nurses." "I volunteer at my child's elementary school."
- 4. *first aid* noun How to help people right after they are hurt. "I'm not a doctor, but I learned first aid this year."
- 5. *Islamic* adjective The adjective for the religion of Islam. "When I was in college, I studied Islamic history in Iran and Iraq."

Vocabulary

| 1 organization | a. The first people to help after an emergency. |
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| 2 medic | b. A hurricane, tornado, earthquake or fire. |
| 3 volunteer | c. The adjective for the religion of Islam. |
| 4 first aid | d. A group of people working together. |
| 5 Islamic | e. How to help people right after they are hurt. |
| 6 first responders | f. Someone who works for free. |
| 7 | g. Someone who gives medical help in an emergency. |

Questions

- 1. Had you heard of the Red Cross before? How?
- 2. What does the Red Cross do? What don't they do?
- 3. How many people volunteer for the Red Cross or Red Crescent? Why do you think they do it?

