

1. Read the following text and answer the questions below.

# Helping People in Need



**Doctors Without Borders** is an international organisation that gives free medical care to victims of many kinds of catastrophes: wars, natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, and epidemics. They also help those poor people who have no access to health treatments.

**Doctors Without Borders** was established in 1971 by ten French doctors who thought that the world needed people that could respond rapidly to health emergencies all over the world. Those doctors also believed they had to help when a government needed their assistance. They also felt they should always inform the public about injustice, although they might offend the government they were trying to help.

In 1972 **Doctors Without Borders** had its first big mission. Unfortunately, an earthquake destroyed most of the city of Managua on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. That day more than 20,000 people were killed and many others became ill. The organisation had started to work in Managua two days before the Red Cross arrived in the city.

To help the people who are suffering, the organisation has to raise money: part of it comes from donations from the public as well as from huge companies. Additional money for the projects comes from national governments and international institutions such as the United Nations.

**Doctors Without Borders** may start a project when they consider there are many people in danger. A team of experienced staff visits the place and evaluates the medical, nutritional, and sanitary needs, the political environment and the security situation.



When a mission begins a mission team is quickly sent to the place. A mission team usually consists of volunteers and a Head of Mission. The Head of Mission is an experienced person in humanitarian crisis, and it is his/her job to talk to the media and the national governments.

Volunteers often risk their lives to help people in need. They not only suffer injuries or death by mines and contagious diseases, but they are sometimes attacked or kidnapped for political reasons. However, the volunteers usually stay in the place until they have found a solution to the people's sufferings. For all this, the organisation was awarded the 1999 Nobel Prize for Peace.

1. Who can receive medical help from **Doctors Without Borders**?

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2. The doctors are worried about offending governments.

TRUE      FALSE

3. The Red Cross arrived in Managua earlier than **Doctors Without Borders**.

TRUE      FALSE

4. How do they get their financial support to help people in need?

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5. Why could it be dangerous to work as a volunteer?

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