READING

A news story

1 ★★ **Read the news story. Complete the paragraphs (A–D) with the headings (1–4).**

1 What was the problem?
2 What was the solution?
3 What do people use it for now?
4 Who was Vesta Stoudt?

The story of duct tape

A _____

In the early 1940s, the US army was fighting in Europe in World War II. Vesta Stoudt was a woman from Illinois who had two sons in the military. As part of the war effort, she was working in a factory back home in the USA. Her job was to **inspect** and pack equipment for the soldiers in Europe.



B _____

At the factory, they closed and **secured** the boxes of equipment using a thin paper **tape**. However, the boxes were difficult to open quickly, especially when they were wet. Vesta was worried that soldiers' lives might be in danger because they might not be able to get their equipment out fast enough.

C _____

Vesta suggested that they closed the boxes with a stronger, **waterproof** tape. She designed a basic **prototype** of how she thought the tape should be. The boxes were easier to open quickly with this new tape. Vesta's managers in the factory didn't listen to her, but she didn't give up. She decided to write to Franklin Roosevelt, the president of the United States.

D _____

The letter worked and Vesta received a letter of thanks from Roosevelt. The government then asked a company to make the tape based on Vesta's idea. The tape was a great success and probably helped to save lives! Nowadays, duct tape, as it is known, is used for many different things and in many different industries. It is used by NASA in its spaceships and clothes are even made from it. And it's all thanks to the **patience** of one inspiring American woman.

2 ★★ **Match the words in bold in the news story with the meanings.**

1 made safe from damage *secured*
2 stopping liquid from entering somewhere _____
3 the ability to stay calm and continue doing something difficult _____
4 view closely to check condition _____
5 a long, narrow piece of material we use to close things _____
6 the first example of something _____

3 ★★ **Read the new story again and answer the questions.**

1 Where did Vesta Stoudt work?
In a factory in the USA.
2 What did Vesta do at the factory?
_____
3 What problem did Vesta want to solve?
_____
4 Why was Vesta's prototype better than the paper tape?
_____
5 How did Vesta show patience?
_____
6 What examples does the writer give of how people use duct tape now?
_____

4 ★★★ **Can you think of any other ways people use duct tape? Write two ideas.**

_____
_____
_____
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LIVEWORKSHEETS