Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AoW #1-4 Heroes without Capes**

**Read** and **thoroughly connect to the entire** article by generating connections, questions, inferences, and visuals in the margin.

* **Answer** the **4 questions**.
* **Complete the GIST activity.**
* **Write** a **two paragraph reflection** following the following guidelines:

**First paragraph** – Objective summary

**Second paragraph** – Connect the article to our unit

 ***Check for spelling and grammar!***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | **Points** | **Student Evaluation** | **Teacher Evaluation** |
| I have provided a **variety of thoughtful annotations** for the entire article. | 20 |  |  |
| I have answered the **4 comprehension questions** using textual evidence if applicable. | 20 |  |  |
| My **first paragraph is an objective summary**. It is evident that I followed the 6 steps for writing an objective summary. | 25 |  |  |
| My **second paragraph connects the article to our EitO unit**. I cited specific evidence from the text that I feel relates to our unit. | 25 |  |  |
| I have **minimal grammatical and spelling mistakes**. | 5 |  |  |
| **Gist** of article | **5** |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |

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# **Heroes without capes, Portugal's firefighters work for free**

By Barry Hatton, Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff

08/24/2017

This summer, a weeklong wildfire in Portugal resulted in the deaths of 64 people. About 2,000 Portuguese firefighters worked hard to put out the fire. And almost all of them had something in common, apart from the danger they faced: they were doing it for no pay and with equipment bought with public **donations**.

More than 90 percent of Portugal's nearly 30,000 firefighters are volunteers. From lawyers to construction workers, they take time off work to risk their lives. What's more, the volunteer fire departments where they work rely on donations and income from working at private events to pay for their equipment.

When they are sent to a wildfire outside their area of residence during the summer fire season, the government pays these intrepid men and women 1.87 euros ($2) an hour. And the volunteer firefighters usually hand over that meager payment to their **financially** stretched fire departments.

Hugo Simoes is a 33-year-old Lisbon bombeiro (firefighter). He was deployed in June to the country's deadliest wildfire on record. Simoes says a sense of duty and brotherhood drives the volunteers. "We do it out of community spirit," he says.

Volunteers are not uncommon in fire brigades in Europe and around the world. More than 97 percent of German firefighters are volunteers. In the United States that figure is around 70 percent. But in Portugal, these unfunded services are the front line in emergencies,. They provide the backbone of the Civil Protection Agency's resources. There are just seven professional fire departments in the country.

Simoes works for Portugal's oldest fire department, the Bombeiros Voluntarios de Lisboa, which was created in 1868 by royal decree. For him, the volunteer spirit shown by generations of firefighters is unremarkable. It's a cultural tradition.

"Here in Portugal it's been like this for a long time," he shrugs. "We like what we do. On hot days when we could go to the beach, we come here to the fire department instead, to help out."

Simoes nowadays works full-time as an administrative clerk at the fire department. He earns around 600 euros (about $704) a month.

In June, the alarms rang to go and help at a massive blaze in woodland around Pedrogao Grande, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of Lisbon. Simoes set off with four vehicles and their crews.

"Some walked out of work and risked being marked as absent," Simoes says. Across the country, other volunteer firefighters did the same.

Scorching weather, as well as strong winds and woodland that was bone dry after months with little rain, fueled the Pedrogao Grande blaze, just as it has other forest fires this summer. The fire spread so quickly that 47 people died on a road as they fled the advancing flames in their cars.

"The stress, the adrenaline, the heat — they demand a huge effort," Simoes said. "At times it can get a bit hairy, but our training kicks in."

Similar scenes play out each summer in Portugal. Giant flames dwarf the firefighters and huge clouds of smoke stretch to the horizon. Locals help out with buckets and garden hoses and swat at the flames with broken-off tree branches. Wildfires race through eucalyptus and pine forests that are uncleared and tightly packed.

This year has been particularly bad, due to a severe drought affecting 80 percent of the country. Wildfires in Portugal accounted for more than one-third of the burnt forest in the entire 28-nation European Union up to August 5.

Last week, Simoes and his team were dispatched to a major forest fire in Abrantes, not far from Pedrogao Grande. Firefighters brought the blaze under control within 48 hours.

The volunteer firefighters are commonly **depicted** as heroes in Portugal. A recent fundraising **campaign** described them as "heroes without capes." Calls for food and water to help the firefighters **inevitably** bring a nationwide deluge of donations.

About 80 people are on call at the Bombeiros Voluntarios de Lisboa. They receive more than 300 hours of training. This is also done outside their day job.

Simoes says the department has always had enough staff, though it is stretched in emergencies. It scrapes by financially. Fire suits cost over $2,000 each. The recent purchase of 100 new helmets cost $33,000.

Portugal's volunteer fire departments often buy used vehicles. In Lisbon, that includes a fire truck purchased in Luxembourg. A new one costs almost $300,000 — way too expensive for the department. Their dream, they confide, is to own a big American fire truck.

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

**1.** Which paragraph from the text suggests why so many volunteers are needed?

2. Which sentence from the article BEST supports the idea that the volunteer firefighters love what they do?

A. Simoes says a sense of duty and brotherhood drives the volunteers. "We do it out of community spirit," he says.

B. Simoes works for Portugal's oldest fire department, the Bombeiros Voluntarios de Lisboa, which was created in 1868 by royal decree.

**C.** The fire spread so quickly that 47 people died on a road as they fled the advancing flames in their cars.

**D.** Simoes says the department has always had enough staff, though it is stretched in emergencies.

3. Which detail would be MOST important to include in a summary of the article?

A. This summer, a weeklong wildfire in Portugal resulted in the deaths of 64 people.

B. More than 90 percent of Portugal's nearly 30,000 firefighters are volunteers.

C. More than 97 percent of German firefighters are volunteers.

D. In the United States that figure is around 70 percent.

4. Which statement is the central idea of the article?

A. Volunteer firefighters usually get in trouble for leaving their jobs to help fight f fires.

B. Volunteer firefighters do a job for the community with help from the community.

C. Volunteer fire departments have to buy used vehicles because they can't afford new ones.

D. Volunteer firefighters are important to many different countries, like the United States.

**Get the GIST**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Source \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Read the article or section of text.
2. Fill in the 5 Ws and H.

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

3. Write a 20-word GIST summary.

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