

Ellie's Social Studies / History Lesson: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Florence Nightingale's work and her impact on nursing standards.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Remember to look for evidence in the text.

Ellie the elephant loves uncovering the stories of the past. Today, she is telling us about Florence Nightingale, a famous nurse who changed history. During the Crimean War in the 1850s, Florence travelled to a military hospital in Scutari. When she arrived, she was shocked to find the conditions were terrible. The wards were dirty, there was very little clean water, and many soldiers were becoming ill because of the poor environment. Florence knew that hygiene was the key to recovery. She worked tirelessly to scrub the floors, wash the bed sheets, and ensure the patients had fresh air and good food. At night, she carried a lamp while walking through the dark wards to check on the wounded soldiers. This earned her the nickname, 'The Lady with the Lamp'. Because of her dedication to cleanliness and patient care, the number of soldiers dying in the hospital dropped significantly. When she returned to England, she opened a training school for nurses, ensuring that her high standards of care would continue for generations to come.

Word bank: sanitation · hygiene · nursing · hospital · conditions · reforms

1. Where did Florence Nightingale travel to work during the Crimean War? (1 mark)

2. List two specific things Florence did to improve the hospital environment. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the soldiers called her 'The Lady with the Lamp'? (2 marks)

4. What does the drop in the number of deaths suggest about Florence's methods? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Florence Nightingale was a brave person? Explain your answer using the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Florence Nightingale walking through a hospital ward at night carrying her famous lamp, with a tidy row of beds nearby.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in the 1850s. Write a short newspaper headline and one sentence about the improvements Florence Nightingale has made to the hospital.