

Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

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

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of Victorian history to provide detailed answers. Remember to use full sentences.

Ellie the elephant has been reading her history books! She discovered that Florence Nightingale was a famous Victorian nurse who transformed how hospitals were run. During the Crimean War, she travelled to Scutari to help wounded soldiers. When she arrived, she was shocked by the poor conditions. She worked tirelessly to clean the wards, improve the food, and make sure the soldiers had fresh air and clean water. Because she walked through the dark wards at night carrying a lantern to check on her patients, the soldiers called her 'The Lady with the Lamp'.

Word bank: Scutari · Crimean War · Hygiene · Sanitation · Nursing · Victorian · Hospital · Statistics

1. Why did the soldiers call Florence Nightingale 'The Lady with the Lamp'? Explain how her actions at night helped the patients. (2 marks)

2. When Florence arrived at the hospital in Scutari, she noticed the conditions were very poor. Name two things she changed to improve the health of the soldiers. (2 marks)

3. Florence Nightingale was also a brilliant mathematician who used data to prove that hospitals needed to be cleaner. Why is it important for nurses to keep accurate records? (2 marks)

4. In the Victorian era, many people did not believe women should be nurses. How did Florence Nightingale change people's opinions about the profession? (2 marks)

5. If you were a soldier in the hospital during the Crimean War, how would you describe the difference between the hospital before Florence arrived and after she made her changes? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene inside a Victorian hospital ward. Include Florence Nightingale holding her famous lamp, the rows of beds for the soldiers, and one way she has made the ward cleaner and safer.



Extension challenge: Max the monkey is curious about the cost of supplies! If a bandage costs £0.45 and a bar of soap costs £0.35, how much would it cost to buy ten of each for the hospital ward? Show your working out.