

Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To understand the contribution of Florence Nightingale to nursing and hospital reform during the Victorian era.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions using evidence from the text.

Florence Nightingale was a remarkable Victorian reformer who changed the face of modern nursing. Born in 1820, she felt a strong calling to help the sick, despite her wealthy family's initial objections. Her most famous work took place during the Crimean War at a military hospital in Scutari. When she arrived, she found the conditions were dire; the hospital was dirty, overcrowded, and lacked basic medical supplies. Florence believed that cleanliness and fresh air were essential for recovery. She insisted on scrubbing floors and washing bedsheets to improve sanitation. Each night, she walked the long, dark corridors carrying a lantern to check on the wounded soldiers, earning her the famous nickname, 'The Lady with the Lamp'. Beyond her bedside care, she was a brilliant mathematician. She used data to prove that better hygiene significantly reduced death rates. Her dedication led to major improvements in hospital design and training for nurses, leaving a legacy that still saves lives today. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, says we should always remember Florence's bravery in challenging unfair conditions.

Word bank: Victorian · sanitation · nursing · hygiene · statistics · reform · hospital

1. Where did Florence Nightingale carry out her most famous nursing work during the Crimean War? (2 marks)

2. What were two specific actions Florence took to improve the conditions in the hospital? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the soldiers gave Florence the nickname 'The Lady with the Lamp'? (2 marks)

4. How did Florence's skills in mathematics help her to change how hospitals were run? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Florence Nightingale was an important historical figure? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a Victorian hospital ward showing the improvements Florence Nightingale made, such as clean floors, open windows, and a lantern glowing in the dark.



Extension challenge: Research one other person from the Victorian era who changed history. Write three sentences explaining why they are remembered today.