

Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

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

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Victorian era and Florence Nightingale to provide detailed answers.

Florence Nightingale was a trailblazing Victorian reformer who transformed the way hospitals operated. During the Crimean War, she travelled to the Barrack Hospital in Scutari. She noticed that the soldiers were suffering not just from battle wounds, but from poor conditions and a lack of cleanliness. By introducing better ventilation, washing bed linen, and ensuring patients had nutritious food, she significantly lowered the death rate. Her dedication to recording data and her nightly rounds with a lamp made her a hero to the soldiers and a pioneer in the field of modern nursing.

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

1. Explain two changes Florence Nightingale made at the Barrack Hospital in Scutari to improve the health of the soldiers. (2 marks)

2. Why is Florence Nightingale often referred to as 'The Lady with the Lamp'? (1 mark)

3. Ellie the elephant is studying how Florence used maths in her work. Why was the use of statistics important to Florence Nightingale's nursing reforms? (2 marks)

4. How did Florence Nightingale's work change the public perception of the nursing profession during the Victorian era? (2 marks)

5. If Florence Nightingale were alive today, what is one modern piece of hospital equipment she might find most useful for keeping patients clean and healthy? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene inside a Victorian hospital ward. Include a lamp, clean bandages, and a patient being cared for, reflecting the improvements Florence Nightingale introduced.



Extension challenge: Research Mary Seacole. Write a short paragraph comparing her contribution to the Crimean War with that of Florence Nightingale. How were their approaches similar or different?