

Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To understand the significant contributions of Florence Nightingale to nursing and hospital reform during the Crimean War.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

In 1854, Florence Nightingale travelled to the Scutari hospital during the Crimean War. She was shocked by the appalling conditions she discovered. The wards were overcrowded, dirty, and lacked basic supplies like fresh water and clean linen. Many soldiers were sadly dying from preventable infections rather than their battle wounds. Florence was a true pioneer; she worked tirelessly to improve hospital sanitation. She insisted on scrubbing floors, ensuring proper ventilation, and providing nutritious food for the wounded. Every night, she walked through the dark corridors carrying a small lantern to comfort the suffering soldiers. Because of this, they affectionately called her 'The Lady with the Lamp'. After the war, Florence used her experiences to campaign for better hospital design and nursing standards across Britain. Her dedication changed the way hospitals were run, saving countless lives. Today, she is remembered as the founder of modern nursing, proving that cleanliness and compassion are just as vital as medicine. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, says we should always remember how one person's courage can change the world for the better.

Word bank: sanitation · hygiene · hospital · Crimean War · pioneer · nursing · conditions

1. Where was the hospital located that Florence Nightingale worked in during 1854? (1 mark)

2. List two specific changes Florence made to improve the hospital environment. (2 marks)

3. Why did the soldiers call her 'The Lady with the Lamp'? (2 marks)

4. Infer why the soldiers were dying from infections rather than just their battle injuries. (2 marks)

5. Do you think Florence Nightingale's work was more important than the medicine used at the time? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Florence Nightingale walking through a hospital ward at night, holding her iconic lantern, with the silhouette of the soldiers' beds in the background.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast a Victorian hospital with a modern-day hospital. What might happen if hospitals today did not follow Florence Nightingale's rules on hygiene? Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a soldier who felt comforted by Florence's nightly visits.