

Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp and Her Legacy

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

Ellie the elephant has been visiting the archives to learn about Florence Nightingale. Below is a list of 'Historical Impact Statements'. Read each one and decide if it describes a state of affairs 'Before' Florence arrived at the Scutari hospital, or an 'After' improvement she implemented. Sort the statements into the two categories and provide a justification for why each change saved lives.

Word bank: Scutari · Hygiene · Sanitation · Statistics · Epidemiology · Ventilation · Nursing · Crimson · Lamp

1. 1. Soldiers were sleeping on floors covered in dirt and vermin. (Before or After?) Explain why this had a negative impact on recovery. (2 marks)

2. 2. Florence insisted on washing bed linens and keeping wards clean. (Before or After?) How did this change the mortality rate? (2 marks)

3. 3. Fresh air was allowed into the wards through open windows. (Before or After?) Why was improved ventilation a crucial scientific step? (2 marks)

4. 4. Compare and contrast: How did Florence's use of data and 'statistics' change the way hospitals were managed after the war? (3 marks)

5. 5. Justify your answer: If Florence Nightingale had not gone to the Crimea, what might have happened to the standards of nursing in the 19th century? (3 marks)

6. 6. What might happen if a hospital ward today lacked the hygiene standards that Florence Nightingale championed? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a Victorian hospital ward. Include two sides: one side showing the chaotic, unsanitary conditions Florence first found, and the other side showing the clean, organised, and well-ventilated ward she created.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1856. Write a short, persuasive newspaper headline and a lead paragraph praising the work of the 'Lady with the Lamp'. Use sophisticated vocabulary to describe the shift from despair to hope.