

Ellie's History Challenge: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of Florence Nightingale's work and evaluate how she revolutionised nursing practices during the Crimean War.

Use your historical knowledge to answer the following questions. Provide detailed explanations where required to demonstrate your understanding of primary and secondary sources.

Ellie the elephant has been reading historical records about the Crimean War. She discovered that before Florence Nightingale arrived at the Barrack Hospital in Scutari, the conditions were dire. Nightingale believed that the environment was just as important as medical treatment. By introducing strict cleaning routines, proper ventilation, and fresh food, she saw the death rate drop significantly. She used her skills in mathematics to create diagrams, showing the government exactly why these changes saved lives.

Word bank: Scutari · Crimean War · Sanitation · Hygiene · Statistical analysis · Mortality rate · Professionalisation · Compassion

1. Identify two specific changes Florence Nightingale implemented at the hospital in Scutari and explain how these improved the recovery of the soldiers. (2 marks)

2. Why was Florence Nightingale's use of statistics and data considered a revolutionary approach to nursing in the 19th century? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the typical view of a nurse before Florence Nightingale's reforms with the professional image she established. (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If Florence Nightingale had not insisted on improved sanitation, what might have been the long-term impact on the soldiers' survival rates? (2 marks)

5. Explain why Florence Nightingale became a national icon during her lifetime, despite the challenges women faced in the Victorian era. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram representing the 'Circle of Care' that Florence Nightingale might have created. Include symbols for clean water, fresh air, and nutritious food to show how she promoted healing.



Extension challenge: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a soldier in the Scutari hospital. Describe the atmosphere of the ward before and after Nightingale's night rounds. Consider the sensory details—what would you see, hear, and feel?