

Mary Seacole: A Caring Hero

Learning objective: To understand the contribution of Mary Seacole during the Crimean War.

Read the short story about Mary Seacole. Use the word bank to help you understand the text. Write your answers in the boxes provided.

Mary Seacole was a very kind and brave lady from Jamaica. In the 1850s, there was a big conflict called the Crimean War. Many soldiers were hurt and needed help. Mary wanted to be a nurse, but some people said no because of her skin colour. Mary did not give up. She used her own money to travel a long way to the war zone. She built a place called the 'British Hotel'. It was a safe place for soldiers to rest. Mary gave them hot food and warm blankets. She also used her special knowledge of herbs to make medicine for their wounds. She worked very hard every day to look after the soldiers. She was often seen on the battlefield, even when it was dangerous. The soldiers loved Mary because she was so caring. Today, we remember Mary Seacole as a hero who showed great courage. Ellie the elephant loves learning about Mary because her memory teaches us that one person can make a big difference in the world.

Word bank: Crimean War · nurse · medicine · kindness · brave · history

1. Where did Mary Seacole travel to help the soldiers during the war? (2 marks)

2. What two things did Mary provide for the soldiers at the 'British Hotel'? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Mary used her own money to travel to the war zone? (2 marks)

4. How did the soldiers feel about Mary? Use the text to explain why. (2 marks)

5. Do you think Mary Seacole was a brave person? Give one reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Mary Seacole helping a soldier. You could draw her with a warm blanket or a bowl of hot food.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a soldier in the Crimean War. Write one sentence to say thank you to Mary Seacole.