

Ellie's Historical Heroines: The Florence Nightingale Investigation

Learning objective: To analyse the significant impact of Florence Nightingale on modern nursing and hospital standards during the Crimean War.

Ellie the elephant is using her incredible memory to piece together the events of Florence Nightingale's life. Your task is to act as a historical researcher. Read the 'Evidence Cards' below and decide if the statement is True or False. For every answer, you must provide a justification based on your historical knowledge. If you believe the statement is false, explain what the correct historical fact is.

Word bank: Scutari · Crimean War · Sanitation · Statistician · Lamp · Reform · Hygiene · Nursing

1. Statement: Florence Nightingale travelled to the Crimean War to fight on the front lines as a soldier. True or False? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. Statement: When Florence arrived at the hospital in Scutari, the conditions were clean and well-organised. True or False? Explain why you think this. (2 marks)

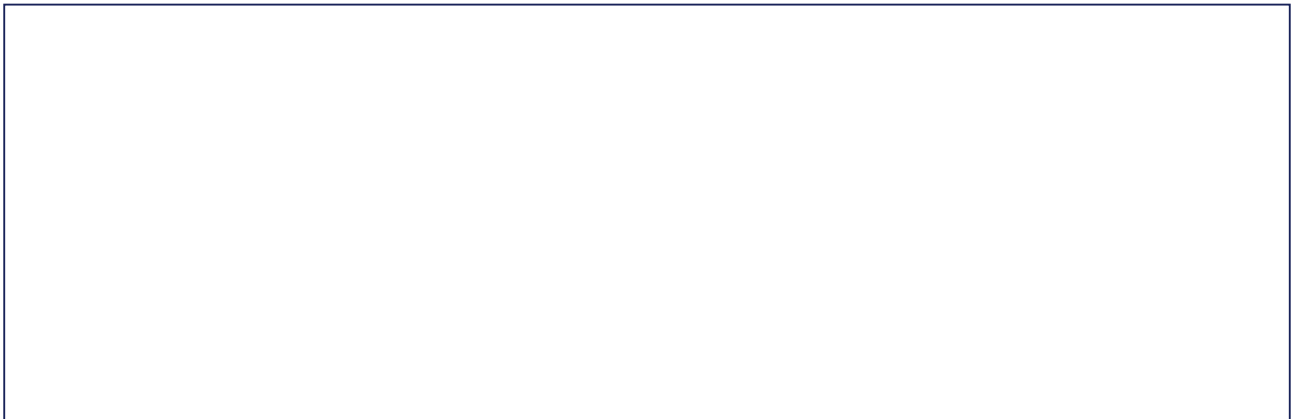
3. Statement: Florence Nightingale used her skills as a mathematician to record death rates and improve hospital conditions. True or False? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the image of 'The Lady with the Lamp' with the reality of Florence's work as a hospital administrator. What does this tell us about how history remembers her? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why is Florence Nightingale often referred to as the founder of modern nursing? (3 marks)

6. What might happen to the mortality rate in a Victorian hospital if the principles of hygiene that Florence introduced were ignored? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a Victorian hospital ward. Label at least three changes Florence Nightingale might have insisted on to improve sanitation, such as better ventilation, clean water supplies, or organised laundry systems.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1856. Write a short, persuasive 'Letter to the Editor' of a London newspaper justifying why the government should provide more funding for the training of nurses based on the evidence seen at Scutari.