

Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To understand the significant contribution of Florence Nightingale to nursing and hospital reform during the Victorian era.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of Florence Nightingale's life and her impact on medical history. Work with a partner to discuss the deeper significance of her actions.

Who was Florence Nightingale and why is she significant in British history?

A Victorian social reformer and statistician who is considered the founder of modern nursing, famous for her work during the Crimean War.

Where did Florence Nightingale lead a team of nurses during the Crimean War?

The Barrack Hospital in Scutari.

Why was the nickname 'The Lady with the Lamp' given to Florence Nightingale?

Because she would walk through the hospital wards at night carrying a lamp to check on the welfare of the wounded soldiers.

What major issue did Florence Nightingale identify as the cause of high death rates in the hospital?

Poor sanitation and a lack of hygiene, such as contaminated water and overcrowding.

How did Florence Nightingale use mathematics to improve hospitals?

She used statistics and data visualisation to prove that better hygiene led to lower mortality rates, influencing government policy.

Explain why Florence Nightingale's work is considered a 'reform'.

She changed the entire system of how hospitals were run, moving them from dirty, chaotic places to organised, clean environments.

Compare and contrast the hospitals of the Victorian era with modern hospitals.

Modern hospitals have advanced technology and antibiotics, but both rely on the fundamental principles of hygiene and patient care established by Nightingale.

Justify why Florence Nightingale is often described as a pioneer of public health.

She did not just treat individual patients; she campaigned for systemic changes in ventilation, drainage, and hospital design that saved countless lives.

What might have happened to the survival rates of soldiers if Nightingale had not implemented her cleaning reforms?

It is highly likely that the death rate would have remained extremely high due to the spread of preventable diseases in unsanitary conditions.

Evaluate the importance of accurate record-keeping in Nightingale's success.

Without her detailed records, she would not have had the evidence required to convince government officials to invest in hospital reform.

How does Ellie the Elephant's love for history help us understand Nightingale's legacy today?

By studying the past, we recognise how one individual's determination can lead to long-lasting improvements in how society cares for the vulnerable.

If you were to write a poem about Nightingale, which three words would you choose to describe her character?

(Open-ended) Examples: Determined, compassionate, methodical.