

Florence Nightingale: A Historical Investigation with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of Florence Nightingale's work on nursing standards and hospital reform in the 19th century.

Ellie the Elephant has been digging through the archives to learn about the 'Lady with the Lamp'. Use your historical knowledge to complete this investigation file. Provide detailed evidence to support your observations and consider the long-term impact of Florence's actions.

Word bank: Scutari · sanitation · hygiene · statistics · reforms · nursing · Crimean War · mortality

1. Identify the primary challenges Florence Nightingale faced upon her arrival at the Barrack Hospital in Scutari. Explain why these conditions were considered hazardous to the patients. (3 marks)

2. Describe the specific methods Florence implemented to improve hospital hygiene. How did these changes demonstrate a shift towards scientific observation? (3 marks)

3. Justify why Florence Nightingale is often referred to as a pioneer of statistics. How did she use data to convince government officials to support her reforms? (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the status of nursing before Florence Nightingale's reforms with the professional standards established after her return to England. (4 marks)

5. Explain why Florence Nightingale's work in the 1850s is still considered significant to the modern National Health Service today. (3 marks)

6. What might have happened to the mortality rate of soldiers in Scutari if Florence Nightingale had not arrived to implement her sanitary reforms? Justify your prediction. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a contemporary of Florence Nightingale writing a letter to a newspaper in 1856. Create a persuasive argument advocating for the formal training of nurses, using evidence of the improvements you have studied to support your case.