Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To understand the significant impact Florence Nightingale had on nursing and hospital hygiene during the Crimean War.

Ellie the elephant has been reading about the Crimean War in her history books. She has found five key events, but they are all jumbled up! Read the descriptions below and place them in the correct chronological order (1–5). Then, answer the questions to show your historical understanding.

Word bank: Scutari · Crimean War · Sanitation · Hygiene · Statistical · Nursing · Lamp

1. 1. Florence arrives at the military hospital in Scutari and is shocked by the terrible conditions. 2. Florence trains to become a nurse in Germany. 3. Florence writes reports on how to improve hospital cleanliness to save lives. 4. Florence returns to Britain as a national hero. 5. Florence works through the night checking on patients with her lamp. (5 marks)

2. Why did Florence Nightingale insist on cleaning the hospital wards and improving sanitation? (2 marks)

3. How did the soldiers' perception of Florence change during her time at the hospital? (2 marks)

4. If a nurse in the 1850s had to buy 12 new bandages for £2.40, how much did each bandage cost? Show your working out. (2 marks)

5. Why are Florence Nightingale's records and statistics considered important to the history of modern medicine? (2 marks)

6. Florence Nightingale is often remembered as 'The Lady with the Lamp'. What does this nickname suggest about the care she provided? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from the Scutari hospital in the 1850s. Include Florence Nightingale holding her famous lamp, the clean rows of beds, and a small detail showing how she organised her medical supplies.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a soldier in the hospital at Scutari. Write a short diary entry (50-80 words) describing the difference Florence Nightingale made to your daily life compared to before she arrived.