Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To understand the contribution of Florence Nightingale to the reform of hospitals and the development of modern nursing during the Crimean War.

Use your historical knowledge about Florence Nightingale and the Crimean War to answer the following questions. Provide full sentences where required.

Ellie the elephant has been reading her history books! She discovered that Florence Nightingale was a pioneer in nursing who travelled to the Barrack Hospital in Scutari during the Crimean War. By improving hygiene, ventilation, and nutrition, she dramatically reduced the death rate of soldiers. Later, she used her skills in maths to present data, proving that better hospital conditions saved lives.

Word bank: Scutari · Crimean War · Sanitation · Statistics · Hygiene · Nursing · Royal Commission

1. Identify two specific changes Florence Nightingale implemented at the hospital in Scutari to improve the soldiers' recovery chances. (2 marks)

2. Why is Florence Nightingale often referred to as 'The Lady with the Lamp'? (1 mark)

3. Max the monkey is impressed by her use of data. Explain how Florence Nightingale used statistics to influence the British government after she returned from the war. (2 marks)

4. In your own words, explain why the conditions in the hospital before Nightingale arrived were considered dangerous for the wounded soldiers. (2 marks)

5. If a modern hospital wanted to follow the 'Nightingale principles' today, what is one thing they would prioritise to ensure patient safety? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene inside a Crimean War hospital ward. Include a lamp, clean bandages, and organised beds to show how Florence Nightingale improved the environment.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a soldier in the Scutari hospital. Write a short journal entry (50-70 words) describing how the hospital environment changed after Florence Nightingale and her team of nurses arrived.