Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To assess understanding of Florence Nightingale's contribution to nursing, sanitation, and hospital reform in the 19th Century.

Read each question carefully. Write your answers in full sentences where required. Ensure your spelling and grammar are accurate.

Ellie the elephant has been reading about the Crimean War (1853–1856). She discovered that when Florence Nightingale arrived at the Barrack Hospital in Scutari, the conditions were terrible. Soldiers were dying from infections caused by poor hygiene, lack of fresh water, and overcrowding. Florence Nightingale used her mathematical skills to record data, showing that better sanitation significantly reduced the death rate of soldiers.

Word bank: Scutari · Crimean War · Sanitation · Hygiene · Statistics · Mortality rate · Nursing · Reform

1. Identify the war during which Florence Nightingale became famous for her nursing work. (1 mark)

2. Describe two major problems Florence Nightingale faced when she first arrived at the hospital in Scutari. (2 marks)

3. Why was Florence Nightingale often referred to as 'The Lady with the Lamp'? (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey says that Florence Nightingale was a hero of maths as well as nursing. Explain how she used statistics to improve hospital conditions. (3 marks)

5. Explain how Nightingale's changes to hospital hygiene, such as cleaning floors and improving ventilation, impacted the soldiers' survival rates. (4 marks)

6. Compare the role of a nurse before Florence Nightingale’s reforms to the role of a professional nurse today. What changed? (5 marks)

7. Evaluate the long-term impact of Florence Nightingale's work on modern healthcare systems. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a Victorian hospital ward as it might have looked after Florence Nightingale’s reforms, labelling three specific improvements she introduced.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out what the 'Nightingale Pledge' is and write a short paragraph explaining why nurses still take a version of this oath today.