

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale is famous Victorian nurse. She is often called 'The Lady of the Lamp'. She was born on 12th May 1820, in Florence, Italy to a rich family and they returned to England shortly after Florence was born.

Early Life

As a child, Florence often helped ill people in the village near her home and by the age of sixteen, she knew that she wanted to be a nurse. Her parents did not want her to become a nurse and were very disappointed. They wanted her to marry and have a family.

Florence's family sent her on holiday hoping she would forget about nursing. She travelled to France, Italy, Greece and Egypt. When she returned, she still wanted to become a nurse, so her family allowed her to study nursing in Germany. After training she came back to London to work in a hospital.



1. When was Florence Nightingale born?

2. Find and copy one word that means *came back*.

4. Which countries did Florence Nightingale go on holiday to?

Tick your answers.

Greece

Germany

America

France

4. What did her family want her to do?

5. Where did she train to be a nurse?

Crimean War

In 1853, there was a war between Turkey and Russia called the Crimean War. British soldiers were injured and dying in hospitals. Florence Nightingale was asked to take a group of nurses to Crimea to work there. She took thirty-eight nurses and they worked at the Scutari Hospital.

When they arrived, they were shocked because the hospital was so dirty and smelly with rats and insects crawling everywhere! Soldiers were lying on the floor as they had no beds. There were not enough bandages or soap and many soldiers were dying because they were not being looked after properly.

The first thing that Florence Nightingale did at the hospital was to get brushes and soap and clean it from top to bottom. She then made sure that the soldiers had beds and that everything was clean, including the soldiers. She also set up kitchens to make sure that they had healthy food. Florence looked after the soldiers, day and night, carrying a lamp when it was dark. This is how she became known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'. The soldiers were now getting better because of the care from Florence Nightingale and her nurses.



1. Which two countries were fighting in the Crimean War?

_____ and _____

2. How many nurses did Florence Nightingale take to Crimea?

3. What two animals were 'crawling everywhere'?

_____ and _____

4. Do you think that the soldiers should have been on the floor in the hospital? Explain your answer.

5. Why was Florence Nightingale called '*the Lady of the lamp*'?

After the War

When the Crimean War ended, Florence returned to England. People thought that she was a hero and Queen Victoria gave her a brooch called the 'Nightingale Jewel' and a large sum of money. She used this money to help fund St Thomas' Hospital in London and set up 'The Nightingale Training School For Nurses'. Many women now wanted to become nurses, just like Florence Nightingale.

During the war, Florence caught Crimean Fever. This made her very tired for the rest of her life and she had to spend lots of time in bed. She still write books about nursing and advised hospitals. She died on 13th August 1910 aged ninety.

How has she been remembered?

Florence Nightingale changed nursing forever. It became a more caring role and nurses made sure that hospitals were clean and patients had healthy food. She is still remembered today and there is a statue of her in London. In 2020, temporary hospitals were built and named 'Nightingale Hospitals' after the famous nurse.



1. What did Queen Victoria give Florence Nightingale?

2. Why did Florence spend much of her time in bed after the war?

3. Match the information with the section of the text that it can be found in.

One has been done for you.

Victoria gave Florence Nightingale a brooch.

Early Life

Florence became known as 'The lady with the lamp'.

Crimean War

There is a statue of her in London.

After the War

Florence's parents did not want her to be a nurse.

How will she be remembered?



4. Would you rather be a nurse now or when Florence Nightingale was alive?

Explain your answer.
