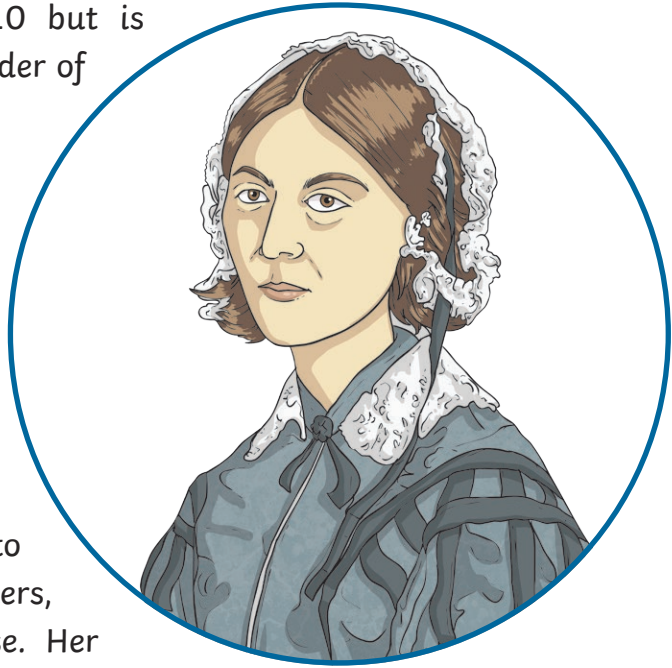# Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale died in 1910 but is still remembered for being the founder of modern-day nursing.

Florence was born on 12th May 1820 in Florence, Italy. She was born into a rich, upper-class British family. The family moved to England in 1821.

Florence the Nurse

She had a strong faith and believed that God had instructed her to dedicate her life to looking after others, so she decided to become a nurse. Her mother was disappointed with her decision as she thought that Florence should devote all of her time to becoming a mother and wife.

At the age of 33, Florence became superintendent at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in London, however, she only worked there for a short period of time. The Crimean War broke out in 1853; Britain, Turkey and France fought against Russia. Florence was keen to go and help when reports reached Britain about the horrendous conditions for the wounded soldiers. Along with a staff of volunteer nurses and nuns, she travelled to Scutari to do her bit.

Florence and her team found that the wounded soldiers were not receiving decent food. She also found that medicines and beds were in short supply, hygiene was poor and infections were common, in fact, more soldiers died from infections than their battle wounds. As a result of this, Florence asked the British government for help. Sewers were flushed out and the hospital was cleaned. Florence also ensured that the everyone washed their hands regularly. She bought fresh food and organised a chef to cook meals. These changes caused death rates to drop.

Did You Know?

Florence was given the famous nickname, 'The Lady with the Lamp' by the soldiers who she cared for day and night. When it was dark, she carried a lantern with her.

Florence had a meeting with Queen Victoria. She explained all the improvements required in the Army hospitals. The Army then began training doctors and the conditions in hospitals improved.

Later in Life

At the age of 40, Florence established the Nightingale Training School to train nurses. She spent the rest of her life trying to improve health standards and wrote over 200 books and leaflets on hospital planning. Some of these ideas helped influence practices which are still in existence today.

In 1883, Florence received the Royal Red Cross by Queen Victoria. She died in London on 13th August, 1910.

Questions

1. Why do you think she was given the name Florence?

   _____

   _____

2. Why did she decide to become a nurse?

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. Why did she only work at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen for a short period of time?

   _____

   _____

   _____

4. Explain why Florence felt the need to go and look after the wounded soldiers.

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. List four things that were wrong with the hospital.

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. During the Crimean War...

   ☐ Britain was at war with France and Russia.

   ☐ Britain was at war with Germany.

   ☐ Britain was at war with Turkey.

   ☐ Britain, France and Turkey were at war with Russia.

7. What was the name of Florence's school for nurses?

    ☐ Nightingale Nurses
    ☐ Nightingale Training School
    ☐ Florence's Nursing School
    ☐ Florence's School for Nurses

8. Which monarch did Florence talk with about the conditions in the army hospitals?

    ☐ Queen Elizabeth I
    ☐ William IV
    ☐ Queen Victoria
    ☐ George III

9. What does the following statement tell us about Florence as a person?

    She spent the rest of her life trying to improve health standards and wrote over 200 books and leaflets on hospital planning.

    _____

    _____

    _____

    Link the statements to 'true' or 'false'. If a statement is false, write the correct statement.

    Florence was born on the 21st May.

    She was known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'.

    She was born into a very poor family.

    Florence was reluctant to help the soldiers.

    Hospitals improved when the army began training doctors.

    Florence received a prestigious award from Queen Victoria.

    Corrected statements:

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

True

False

Answers

1. Why do you think she was given the name Florence?
   I think she was given the name Florence as she was born in Florence, Italy.

2. Why did she decide to become a nurse?
   Florence had a strong faith and believed that God had instructed her to dedicate her life to looking after others, so she decided to become a nurse.

3. Why did she only work at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen for a short period of time?
   She only worked there for a short period of time because the Crimean War broke out in 1853. Florence left London to go and look after the wounded soldiers.

4. Explain why Florence felt the need to go and look after the wounded soldiers.
   Florence felt the need to go and look after the wounded soldiers because reports had reached Britain about the horrendous conditions they were facing.

5. List four things that were wrong with the hospital.
   Any four of the following statements: soldiers were not receiving decent food, medicines were in short supply, beds were in short supply, hygiene was poor, infections were common or more soldiers died from infections than their battle wounds.

6. During the Crimean War...
   Britain, France and Turkey were at war with Russia.

7. What was the name of Florence's school for nurses?
   The name of the school for nurses was the Nightingale Training School.

8. Which monarch did Florence talk with about the conditions in the army hospitals?
   Florence talked about the conditions in the hospital with Queen Victoria.

9. What does the following statement tell us about Florence as a person?
   This statement tells us that Florence was extremely dedicated to improving health standards and dedicated the rest of her life to trying to make a difference. It shows she was a very caring person as she wanted people to go to hospital and get better.

10. Link the statements to 'true' or 'false'. If a statement is false, write the correct statement.

    True:
    She was known as 'The Lady with the Lamp';
    hospitals improved when the army began training doctors;
    Florence received a prestigious award from Queen Victoria.
    Other statements are false.

    Corrected statements:
    Florence was born on the 12th May;
    she was born into a rich family;
    Florence was keen to help the soldiers.