



Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale is very important to nursing and medicine today. She changed the way nursing was carried out and worked hard to improve the standards of hygiene in hospitals.

Florence Nightingale was born on 12th May 1820 in Italy. She lived with her father, who was a doctor, her mother and her older sister Parthenope ('Pop'). Her family was a wealthy British family. Both girls were named after the places in Italy they were born.

1. What is Florence Nightingale remembered for today? Tick one.

Making hospitals and nursing better

☐

Becoming a nurse

☐

Being born in Italy

☐

Having a sister called 'Pop'

☐

The Nightingale sisters were taught at home by their father. Florence was very good at maths and science. As she grew up, she knew she did not want to get married, but wanted to help other people instead.

2. Who taught Florence Nightingale and her sister?

Florence believed that God wanted her to do important work. She knew she wanted to be a nurse at this time, nursing was not a good job for ladies and hospitals were horrible, dirty places. Her mother and father did not want her to become a nurse, but Florence would not give up. Finally, Florence went to Germany in 1851 to train to be nurse. In 1853, she got her first job - running a hospital for women in London. She made the hospital and the care that the patients had much better.

3. Find two words that describe hospitals when Florence was growing up.

1. _____

2. _____



Florence Nightingale

1. Where did Florence train to be a nurse? Tick one.

France

☐

Italy

☐

Germany

☐

England

☐

In 1853, a war broke out in Crimea with France, Britain and Turkey all fighting against Russia.



Back at home, people read about the war and the way the soldiers were being cared for in the army hospitals. There was little food and it was often mouldy. The water was dirty. Men with injuries and diseases had to lie on the stone floor, while rats ran around them. There were no nurses to look after them and there was no proper medical care. Because of this, Florence Nightingale was asked to take a team of nurses to Crimea. It was the first time women had been allowed to serve in the army.

2. Which countries were fighting against Russia in the Crimean War?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Florence Nightingale

The Crimean War ended in 1856. Florence returned to Britain in 1857 a hero. In 1860, Florence opened her own nurses' training school at St Thomas' Hospital, London.



Florence and her nurses at St Thomas' Hospital

She continued working to improve hospitals and nursing. Unfortunately, over time, Florence became more and more ill. Florence Nightingale eventually died on August 13th 1910, aged 90. She had received a special medal called the 'Royal Red Cross' from Queen Victoria, as well as The Order of Merit.

1. Why do we remember Florence Nightingale today?
