

Keystage history

Knowledge organiser

Florence
Nightingale



Florence Nightingale – The Lady with the Lamp

Why was Florence Nightingale important?

In their study of Florence Nightingale, often helpfully compared to the lesser-known Mary Seacole, pupils learn not only about the pioneering role of a determined lady in a man's world, they also learn about important breakthroughs in the health of the nation. This topic is a great vehicle for moving from 'then and now' comparisons of hospital conditions to looking at changes within Florence's long lifetime and to realise that her work with the training nurses after the Crimean war was even more important than her direct role in helping soldiers recover from their wounds. The debate about who better deserves a statue outside St Thomas' hospital, Florence or Mary Seacole, provides an immediate and real-life focus for the tricky concept of interpretations of the past.

1820

Florence was born in Florence, Italy



1851

Florence became a nurse



1853

The Crimean War started.



1854

Florence travelled to the war in Russia to make sure the hospitals were clean.



1855

Florence came back to England as Miss Smith and as a heroine.



1859

Florence opened a training school for nurses in London.



1883

Queen Victoria awarded Florence the Royal Red Cross.



1910

Florence died at the age of 90



Florence Nightingale



Key vocabulary

Crimea	Part of Russia where a war was fought between Britain and France and Turkey on one side and Russia on the other
Hygiene hygienic-	Making things clean - <i>opposite unhygienic</i>
Infection	When germs get in a wound and make you ill
Injured	Painful cut or shot that had to be mended
Medicine	Special type of drink to make you better
Sanitation	Keeping things clean, especially by washing
Scutari	The place in the Crimea where Florence had her hospital
Soldier	Man who fought in an army
Ward	Parts of hospitals with beds for injured soldiers
Wound (say woo-nd)	Normally a bad cut

Top takeaways

Having studied this topic you should be able to understand:

1. Florence is a famous nurse remembered for her work helping soldiers get better in the Crimean war. She became known as the Lady of the Lamp.
2. She got rid of the dirt, cleaned the sheets and made everyone wash their hands. She was very well organised and knew how to get things done
3. After the war Florence really improved hospitals at home.
4. Her work training nurses was really important. Nurses have to obey her rules on how to be a good nurse, even today.
5. She wrote lots of books on nursing which were easy to read.
6. She is remembered today and medals with her name on are given to nurses, even though she died over 100 years ago

Who's who?



William Nightingale
Her father who taught her at home lots of things that usually only men studied at that time



William Russell
The information he wrote in The Times newspaper told people at home how awful life for the soldiers was in the Crimea



Sidney Herbert
Strong friend of Florence who was in charge of how the Crimean war was fought



Queen Victoria
The queen for most of Florence's long life. She gave Florence lots of medals



Mary Seacole
A black lady who went to the Crimea to help the soldiers, looking after them well, even on the battlefield