

# **Florence Nightingale**

## **Childhood**

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy on the 12th of May 1820. Her family were rich and in 1821, they moved back to England. In the summer they lived in Derbyshire and the rest of the year they lived in Hampshire.



Florence and her sister were taught by their father and a teacher. At that time, most girls were not very well educated.

## **Becoming a nurse**

Florence wanted to become a nurse. Her parents thought it was a bad idea and did not let her train. Rich young women at the time were expected to get married but Florence would not get married. At last Florence's parents could see she would not give up and she became a nurse.

## **The Crimean War**

In 1854 the Crimean War began. Britain, France and Turkey were fighting Russia. Conditions were awful. More soldiers were dying from diseases than in battles. The Minister for War asked Florence to take a team of nurses to the Crimea.

The Army hospital at Scutari was in a terrible state; dirty, overcrowded and full of rats. Florence and her nurses cleaned up the hospital. They looked after the soldiers, bought fresh food and had the drains cleared. Soon the death rate began to fall. She was called "The Lady with the Lamp", because she walked around the wards at night, carrying a lantern.

## **After the Crimea**

After the Crimean War, Florence carried on working with the Army to improve Army hospitals, and opened a school for nurses at St Thomas' Hospital in London. Although she was ill for a long time, she did not stop working. She wrote thousands of letters to try to make health care better and she was given many honours and awards. Florence Nightingale died on the 13th of August 1910.

### **Did you know?**

Florence was so famous when she returned from the Crimean War that she called herself Miss Smith so that people would not know who she was!

## **Florence Nightingale**

- 1) In which month was Florence born? Tick the correct answer.  
 May,  
 June,  
 July.
2. In which part of England did Florence live during January and February?
3. Who taught Florence and her sister?
4. Why did Florence's parents refuse to let her train to become a nurse?
5. In which year did the Crimean War begin?
6. Name two countries that were involved in the Crimean War.
7. Describe one thing that Florence and the nurses did to improve things at the Scutari hospital.
8. Why is Florence Nightingale known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'?
9. Think of a new sub-heading for the final paragraph.
10. Choose three words that describe Florence's character.

## **Florence Nightingale**

- 1) In which month was Florence born? Tick the correct answer.  
 May,  
 June,  
 July.
2. In which part of England did Florence live during January and February?  
**Hampshire.**
3. Who taught Florence and her sister?  
**Their father and a teacher.**
4. Why did Florence's parents refuse to let her train to become a nurse?  
**They thought that it was a bad idea. Rich young women were expected to get married.**
5. In which year did the Crimean War begin?  
**1854**
6. Name two countries that were involved in the Crimean War.  
**Answers include Britain, France, Turkey and Russia.**
7. Describe one thing that Florence and the nurses did to improve things at the Scutari hospital.  
**Answers include cleaning up the hospital, looking after the soldiers, buying fresh food and clearing the drains.**
8. Why is Florence Nightingale known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'?  
**Because she walked around the wards at night, carrying a lantern.**
9. Think of a new sub-heading for the final paragraph.  
**Answers will vary but may include references to Florence's work after the Crimean War, her impact on healthcare today and her awards / achievements.**
10. Choose two words that describe Florence's character.  
**Answers will vary but may include kind, determined, caring and other related words.**

# **Florence Nightingale**

## **Childhood**

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy on the 12th of May 1820. In 1821 the family moved back to England. In the summer they lived at Hurst Lea in Derbyshire and for the rest of the year at Embley Park in Hampshire. Florence and her sister were taught by their father and a governess. They were very well-educated, which was unusual for girls at the time.



## **Becoming a nurse**

Florence wanted to become a nurse. Her parents thought that this was a bad idea and would not let her train. Rich young women at the time were expected to get married, not to work. Florence refused to marry. Eventually Florence's parents could see that she would not give up and she became a nurse.

## **The Crimean War**

In 1854 the Crimean War began. Britain, France and Turkey were fighting Russia. Conditions were dreadful and more soldiers were dying from diseases than in battles. Florence was friends with the Minister for War and he asked her to take a team of nurses to the Crimea to improve the situation.

The Army hospital at Scutari was in a terrible state; dirty, overcrowded and rat-infested. To make things worse, at first the Army doctors refused to work with the nurses. Florence would not take no for an answer and so her nurses began cleaning the hospital. They looked after the soldiers, bought fresh food and had the drains cleared. Soon the death rate began to fall. The soldiers called her "The Lady with the Lamp", because she walked around the wards at night, carrying a lantern.

## **After the Crimea**

After the Crimean War, Florence carried on working with the Army to improve conditions in military hospitals, and opened a training school for nurses at St Thomas's Hospital in London. She also invented a type of diagram, known as a "Rose diagram", to clearly show that many more men had died of diseases in the Crimea than any other cause. For the last 40 years of her life, Florence was very ill and bed-ridden. She still carried on working, and wrote over 19,000 letters in her campaign to improve health care. She received many honours and awards, and was the first woman to receive the Order of Merit.

Florence Nightingale died on the 13th of August 1910.

### **Did you know?**

Florence was so famous when she returned from the Crimean War that she called herself Miss Smith!

## **Florence Nightingale**

- 1) In which country was Florence born?
- 2) In which part of England is Embley Park?
- 3) Using evidence from the first paragraph, explain how we know that Florence's family were rich.
- 4) Name three countries that were involved in the Crimean War.
- 5) Who asked Florence to travel to Crimea?
- 6) Which three words were used to describe the Scutari Army Hospital?
- 7) How did changing her name help Florence after the Crimean War?
- 8) What did the 'Rose diagram' show?
- 9) Copy a quote from the text that shows Florence's determination.
10. Choose three words that describe Florence's personality.

## **Florence Nightingale**

- 1) In which country was Florence born?  
**Italy.**
- 2) In which part of England is Embley Park?  
**Hampshire.**
- 3) Using evidence from the first paragraph, explain how we know that Florence's family were rich.  
**They had two homes, living in Derbyshire in the summer and Hampshire for the rest of the year. The girls were also well-educated.**
- 4) Name three countries that were involved in the Crimean War.  
**Answers include Britain, France, Turkey and Russia.**
- 5) Who asked Florence to travel to Crimea?  
**The Minister for War.**
- 6) Which three words were used to describe the Scutari Army Hospital?  
**Dirty, overcrowded and rat-infested.**
- 7) How did changing her name help Florence after the Crimean War?  
**She was very famous and it stopped people knowing who she was.**
- 8) What did the 'Rose diagram' show?  
**That many more people died of diseases in the Crimea than any other cause.**
- 9) Copy a quote from the text that shows Florence's determination.  
**Answers include...**
  - \* **Florence refused to marry. Eventually Florence's parents could see that she would not give up and she became a nurse.**
  - \* **Florence would not take no for an answer...**
  - \* **She still carried on working and wrote over 19,000 letters...**
10. Choose three words that describe Florence's personality.  
**Answers will vary but may include kind, determined, caring and other related words.**

# **Florence Nightingale**

## **Childhood**

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy on the 12th of May 1820, into a very wealthy English family. She had an older sister, Frances Parthenope. In 1821 the family moved back to England, and for most of Florence's childhood they spent the summer at Hurst Lea in Derbyshire and the rest of the year at Embley Park in Hampshire.



Florence and her sister were taught by their father and a governess, and studied a wide variety of subjects. Such a level of education was unusual for girls at the time as it was not considered necessary for their future roles as wives and mothers. Florence was a shy child, who preferred not to be the centre of attention. She was also very strong-willed and reportedly quarrelled with her sister and her mother.

## **Becoming a nurse**

Florence had always had a strong inclination to look after other people, and became increasingly determined to pursue a career in nursing. Her parents were opposed to the idea and would not allow her to train. Rich young women at the time were expected to get married, not to work. Although Florence received at least three marriage proposals, she refused them all. Eventually Florence's parents accepted the strength of her determination and relented. In 1851 Florence went to Germany to begin her training.

## **The Crimean War**

In 1854 Britain, the Crimean War broke out. France and Turkey were fighting Russia in the Crimean Peninsula. In the hospitals, conditions were appalling and more soldiers were dying from diseases than in battles. Florence was friends with Sidney Herbert, who was the Minister for War, and he asked her to take a team of nurses to Turkey, where the wounded were being treated, to improve the situation.

They arrived at the Army hospital at Scutari to find that it was in a terrible state; dirty, overcrowded and infested with vermin. There were 2000 men in the hospital and only 14 baths. Supplies were low or non-existent, with no soap, towels or basins and no clean linen or clothes. Of all the hospitals in the region, Scutari had the highest death toll. To make matters worse, initially the Army doctors refused to work with the nurses. Florence insisted and her nurses began cleaning the hospital. They tended to the soldiers, bought fresh food and had the drains cleared. As a result of their efforts, the death rate began to fall. Florence got her famous name, "The Lady with the Lamp", from the soldiers because she walked around the wards at night, carrying a lantern.

## **After the Crimea**

After the Crimean War, Florence continued working with the Army to improve conditions in military hospitals, and opened a training school for nurses at St Thomas's Hospital in London. She was also a talented mathematician and invented a type of diagram, known as a "Rose diagram", to clearly show that many more men had died of diseases in the Crimea than any other cause. For the last 40 years of her life, Florence was very ill and bed-ridden. Nevertheless she continued working, writing over 19,000 letters in her campaign to improve health care. She received many honours and awards, and was the first woman to receive the Order of Merit.

Florence Nightingale died on the 13th of August 1910.

## Florence Nightingale

- 1) What is the name of Florence's older sister?
  
- 2) Using evidence from the text, explain why it was uncommon for girls to be educated when Florence was young.
  
- 3) *Florence had always had a strong inclination to look after other people.*  
Which of these words is most similar in meaning to *inclination* in this context? Draw a ring around the correct answer:  

desire          flair          idea          mood
  
- 4) How old was Florence when she went to Germany to begin her training?
  
- 5) *In the hospitals, the conditions were appalling...*  
Think of three synonyms for *appalling*.
  
- 6) What was the name of the Minister for War?
  
- 7) Describe three things that Florence and the nurses did to improve things at the Scutari hospital.
  
- 8) How many letters did Florence write in her campaign to improve health care?
  
- 9) Think of a new sub-heading for the second paragraph.
  
- 10) Rewrite the first paragraph in the first person, from Florence's point of view.

## **Florence Nightingale**

- 1) What is the name of Florence's older sister?  
**Frances Parthenope.**
- 2) Using evidence from the text, explain why it was uncommon for girls to be educated when Florence was young.  
**Because it was not considered necessary for their future roles as wives and mothers.**
- 3) *Florence had always had a strong inclination to look after other people.*  
Which of these words is most similar in meaning to *inclination* in this context? Draw a ring around the correct answer:  

**desire**      flair      idea      mood
- 4) How old was Florence when she went to Germany to begin her training?  
**31 years old.**
- 5) *In the hospitals, the conditions were appalling...*  
Think of three synonyms for *appalling*.  
**Answers might include dreadful, disgusting, horrible and terrible.**
- 6) What was the name of the Minister for War?  
**Sidney Herbert.**
- 7) Describe three things that Florence and the nurses did to improve things at the Scutari hospital.  
**Answers include cleaning up the hospital, tending to the soldiers, buying fresh food and clearing the drains.**
- 8) How many letters did Florence write in her campaign to improve health care?  
**Over 19,000.**
- 9) Think of a new sub-heading for the second paragraph.  
**Answers will vary but may include references to Florence's desire to look after people / become a nurse, her refusal to marry and / or her determination.**
- 10) Rewrite the first paragraph in the first person, from Florence's point of view.  
**I was born in Florence, Italy on the 12th of May 1820, into a very wealthy English family. I had an older sister, Frances Parthenope. In 1821 my family moved back to England, and for most of my childhood we spent the summer at Hurst Lea in Derbyshire and the rest of the year at Embley Park in Hampshire.**