

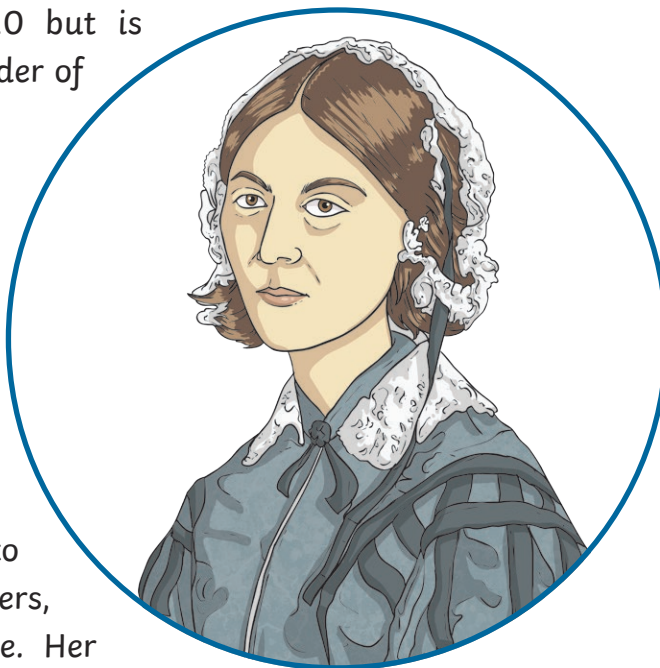
Florence Nightingale

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 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.

