

# Who was Florence Nightingale and why was she so fantastic?

## Who was she?

Florence Nightingale was a famous British nurse who lived between 1820 and 1910. She helped make hospitals cleaner, safer places and wrote books about how to be a good nurse. She helped wounded soldiers in the Crimean War.

## Why was she so important?

Lots of what we know today about how to keep hospitals clean and organised is because of Florence's hard work and research. She found ways of stopping infections and diseases from spreading.



## Key Vocabulary

care hospital

charity sick lamp

soldier medal

Red Cross injured

cleaning diseases

Lady of the Lamp

Crimean War Turkey



## Top 6 Facts!

1. Florence's parents did not want her to become a nurse
2. She refused to ever get married
3. During the Crimean War, she was in charge of 38 other nurses
4. She often wrote letters home from dying soldiers to their families
5. Her birthday on May 12<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as 'international Nurses Day.'
6. She had a pet owl called Athena who she kept in her pocket.



## Early Life

- born in Florence in Tuscany, Italy
- named after the city she was born in
- she was from a wealthy family
- her family moved to Hampshire, English when Florence was 11 years old

## Young Adulthood

- her father took her on a tour around Europe. She met a friend called Mary Clarke who she stayed friends with for 40 years!
- Mary showed Florence that women could be equal to men
- she decided to become a nurse

## The Crimean War

- the war took place from 1853-1856
- she helped wounded soldiers
- she made sure the hospitals were clean places where the soldiers could get better
- she became known as the 'Lady with the Lamp' as she would work all night
- she made sure the soldiers had warm blankets and water
- she worked hard to improve their nutrition to make sure less soldiers died from diseases like typhoid or cholera

## Later Life

- the Nightingale Fund was set up to reward all of Florence's hard work
- in 1883 she met Queen Victoria who awarded her with the Royal Red Cross Medal