

Year 2: Nurses from History

HISTORICAL CONTEXT



MODERN NURSING AND HEALTH CARE:



Nurses and doctors wash their hands thoroughly before they meet each patient to avoid germs spreading - this was not always the case in the past.

In 1854, the Crimean War began. Britain, France and Turkey were fighting Russia in a place now known as the Ukraine.

Queen Victoria was the Monarch at this time.



Queen Victoria acknowledged Florence Nightingale's hard work and people called her a heroine.

Florence Nightingale is seen as the founder of modern nursing and opened a nursing school in London.

In modern times, hospitals and doctors' surgeries are kept very clean to prevent the spread of infection.

KEY VOCABULARY:



CHOLERA: an infectious disease of the small intestine caused by bacteria



CURE: a treatment that relieves a person of the symptoms of a disease



FOUNDER: a person who establishes or creates an institution



HERBAL REMEDIES: medicines with active ingredients made from plant parts, such as leaves, roots or flowers.



HEROINE: a woman admired for her courage, outstanding achievements and qualities



HOSPITAL: a place providing medical and surgical treatment and nurse care for sick or injured.



LANTERN: a lamp with a transparent case protecting the flame and having a handle



ORDER OF MERIT: an award for members of the Commonwealth for their service to the military



PROTESTED: an expression of objection to what someone has said or done.



UNHYGIENIC: not clean or sanitary

WHO:



Florence Nightingale

1820 - 1910

Born in Florence, in Italy and named after the place she was born.

She wanted to be a nurse from a young age and this was an unusual choice for wealthy women at the time.

Florence was asked to lead a team of nurses in the Crimea.

At the time, hospitals were unhygienic. They were overcrowded and filthy. Men lay on the floors because of lack of beds. Drains were blocked and there were rats and flies. Food was mouldy and the water was dirty. More soldiers were dying because of the conditions than from their injuries.

Florence protested that without sanitary conditions the men could not get better. She worked hard to make sure all these things were resolved and more soldiers survived.

Florence walked around the wards to make sure the men were comfortable. She wrote letters home for them.

Because she carried a lantern, the soldiers called her 'The Lady with the Lamp'.



Mary Seacole

1805 - 1881

Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica in 1805.

Mary's mother was a doctor and taught her how to make herbal remedies out of ingredients such as ginger, lemongrass and aloe vera.

Mary travelled to Panama and while there discovered a cure for cholera.

In 1854, Mary tried to join Florence's nurses but they said she was not allowed to go to Crimea with them. She believed that this was because of the colour of her skin.

In 1855, Mary arrived in the Crimea and opened 'The British Hotel'. Here she looked after soldiers by nursing them, making her own medicines from natural ingredients, cooking them meals and even rescuing injured soldiers from the battlefield.

Most of what we know about Mary comes from a book she published about her life called 'The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands'.

How Mary was treated due to her race would not be allowed in today's society.

