

There was a time when, if people became ill or injured, they would probably die.

Doctors tried to save them, but hospitals weren't clean, so disease spread.

A young English woman, called Florence Nightingale, decided to help.

Florence wanted to become a nurse, but at that time nursing was not the sort of job people like Florence did.

Her family was wealthy, so she wasn't expected to have a job at all! But she was religious and clever and desperately wanted to help.

After training, Florence started a hospital in London.

She had many ideas about better ways to look after sick people, like nurses washing their hands and keeping hospitals clean.

She said the very first requirement in a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm.

At the time, Britain was fighting a war in Crimea, Russia. Soldiers died from wounds but even more died from diseases.

Florence went to Crimea and took nurses with her.

To stop disease, she cleaned the hospitals and gave patients healthy food. She even looked after them at night, using a lamp to see in the dark. \ She became known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'.

Florence's great work made her famous.

She used her influence to turn nursing into an important job and make hospitals better.

She started a nursing school at St. Thomas' Hospital in 1860 and wrote books so that nurses could be properly trained to do their job.

Florence made such a difference to nursing that she was given many awards.

Today, we remember her by awarding nurses who give the best care in war and peace, the Florence Nightingale Medal!

- Florence Nightingale went to the Crimean War to nurse wounded soldiers.
- She even nursed soldiers during the night, and became known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'. She and her nurses saved many lives.
- Florence Nightingale is remembered for making changes to nursing and showing people that nursing was a very important job.
- Florence was born in 1820 in a well-known city in Italy. It's called Florence and that's how she got her name.
- When she came home to England after the Crimean War, she didn't want people to know who she was. So she called herself 'Miss Smith'.
- Florence met Queen Victoria. She went to the Queen's home in Scotland.

- Florence liked cats for company but also had a pet owl called Athena.