

# SCIENCE AT WORK

## A chance to meet Florence Nightingale

### WHAT DID FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE DO?

Florence Nightingale was a nurse. She is most famous for looking after sick and wounded soldiers in the Crimean War in the 1850s. Florence was a scientific thinker as she realised that if the hospital wasn't clean, the wounded soldiers didn't get better, but in fact became more ill. Even though germs had not yet been discovered, she worked out that more soldiers were dying from disease than from their war wounds. Back in England after the war, Florence set up the first training school for nurses, based at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. Here she continued to promote her scientific ideas about hospital cleanliness and the spread of infection.



Image courtesy of the National Army Museum

### Lady of the Lamp

This picture shows Florence nursing wounded soldiers in the hospital ward. The soldiers called her 'Lady of the Lamp'.

**Why do you think this was?**

**What else could you find out about Florence Nightingale?**

Who listened to her ideas?

What has been named after her?

What else did she do?

What did nurses and doctors know about disease at that time?

## FIND OUT MORE

[The Florence Nightingale Museum](#) – Lots of information and pictures to look at

[BBC Teach – Florence Nightingale](#) – Discover more about Florence and the Crimean War

[Find out about another famous nurse - Mary Seacole](#) – What did she do?

**Important note:** The Primary Science Teaching Trust is not liable for the actions or activity of any person who uses the information in this resource or in any of the suggested further resources. The Primary Science Teaching Trust assumes no liability with regards to injuries or damage to property that may occur as a result of using the information on this sheet. An adult must take full responsibility for completing the online form.



**“Every nurse ought to wash her hands very frequently.”**  
*(Florence Nightingale, in 1859)*

# SCIENCE AT WORK

## A chance to meet Florence Nightingale

### WHAT TO DO

1

#### FIND OUT ABOUT FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

On the other page, you will find some information and ideas to get you thinking. What else would you like to know? What questions could you ask her?

Write your questions here .....

2

#### DRAW A PICTURE

What did Florence look like?  
What uniforms did nurses wear?

3

#### SEND IN A QUESTION AND YOUR DRAWING

- \* Choose your favourite question that you would like to ask Florence Nightingale.
- \* Ask an adult to complete the form online with your first name, city or region where you live, and your question for Florence. You need to do this by **5pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**.
- \* If you have drawn a picture of Florence, please send this in as well! You can take a photo of it and upload it with the form.

4

#### WATCH THE VIDEO NEXT WEEK

- \* The video of Florence Nightingale will be available to watch from 11.00 on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.
- \* Ask an adult to find the video for you.
- \* You might see your picture, or hear Florence answering your question!

[CLICK HERE TO SEND IN YOUR QUESTION AND DRAWING](#)

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO \(FROM 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL\)](#)