

Florence and the Crimean War



twinkl

Aim

- I can discuss real-life events from a non-fiction text.

Success Criteria

- I can read and understand a biography.
- I can ask and answer questions based on the information I have read.

The Crimean War Begins

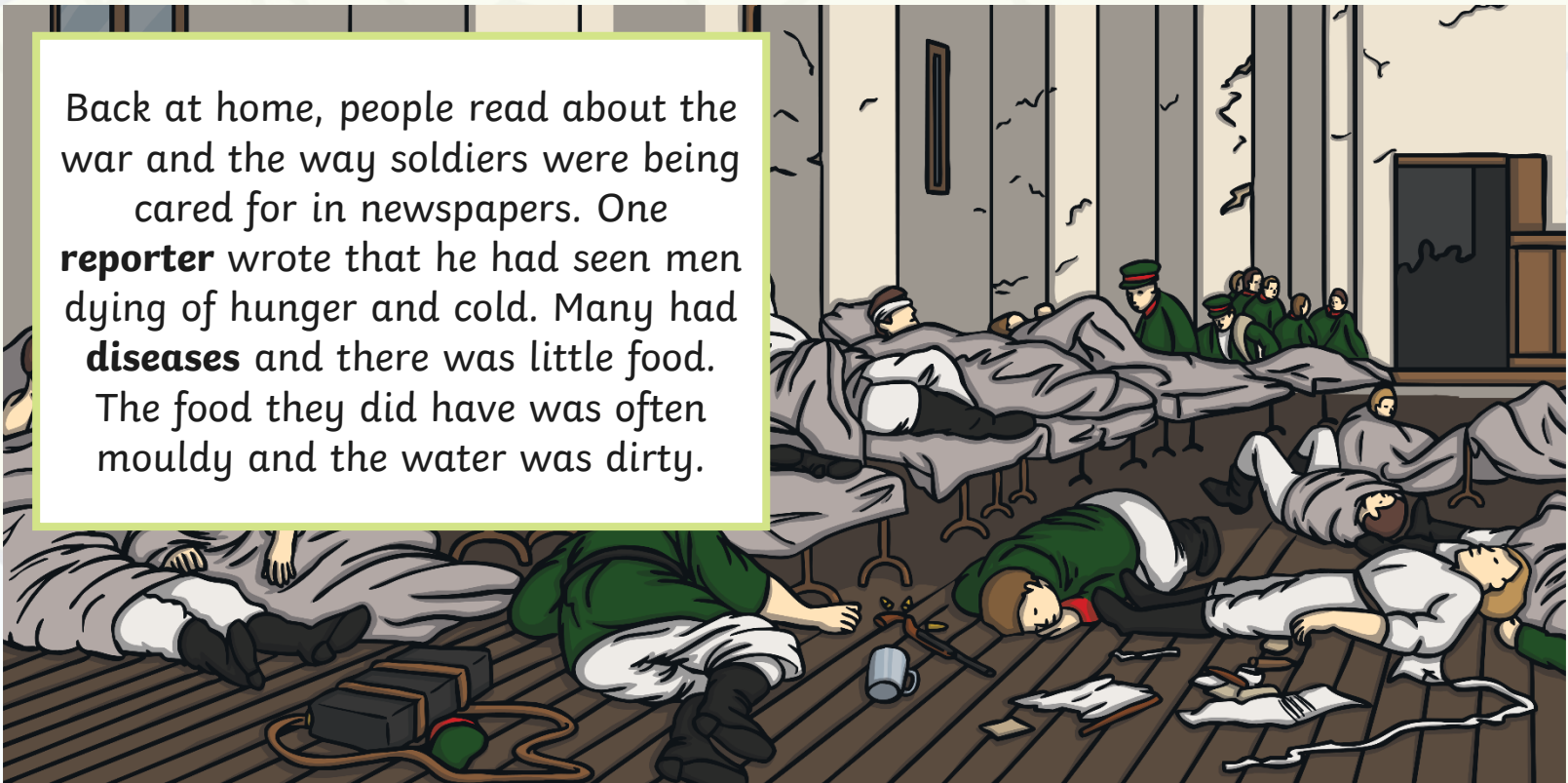
In 1853, a war broke out in the Crimea with France, Britain and Turkey all fighting against Russia.



The Crimean War Begins

Army hospitals were full of **injured** men who had to lie on the floor while rats scampered around them. There were no nurses to take care of them, standards of **hygiene** were poor and there was no proper medical care.

Back at home, people read about the war and the way soldiers were being cared for in newspapers. One **reporter** wrote that he had seen men dying of hunger and cold. Many had **diseases** and there was little food. The food they did have was often mouldy and the water was dirty.



The Crimean War Begins

Because of the poor conditions, Florence Nightingale was asked to take a team of nurses to the Crimea. It was the first time women had been allowed to work in the army.



Did you know?

More soldiers died of diseases than from **injuries** on the battlefield before Florence Nightingale and her nurses arrived.

The Crimean War – Florence Arrives

Florence Nightingale and 38 nurses arrived in Scutari in November 1854 and immediately organised the hospitals with food, blankets and beds. She understood the importance of hygiene in making people better, so she made sure her team of nurses were clean and neat. They set about scrubbing the hospital, removing the rats and dirt and made sure there was proper food, as well as medicine.



Every night, Florence Nightingale would walk around the beds, checking all the soldiers. The British soldiers were grateful and respected her. They called her the 'Lady of the Lamp.'

The Crimean War – Florence Arrives

Every nurse ought to be careful to wash her hands very frequently during the day. If her face, too, so much the better.



Improvements at the Hospital



These 3 images show you what the hospital in Scutari *might* have looked like after Florence Nightingale had made her improvements.

Why are they all slightly different?

Why can't we be sure this is definitely what it looked like?

Why are there no photographs of the hospitals?

After the War

The Crimean War ended in 1856. Having female nurses in army hospitals was very successful. The army started training doctors, hospitals got much cleaner and soldiers were given proper food and medicine.

The work Florence did in Scutari made her famous and when she came home in 1857, she was a **hero**. The Nightingale Fund was started in 1855 to raise money to buy her a 'thank you' gift, but there was so much money collected that in 1860 Florence opened her own nurses' training school at St Thomas's Hospital, London.



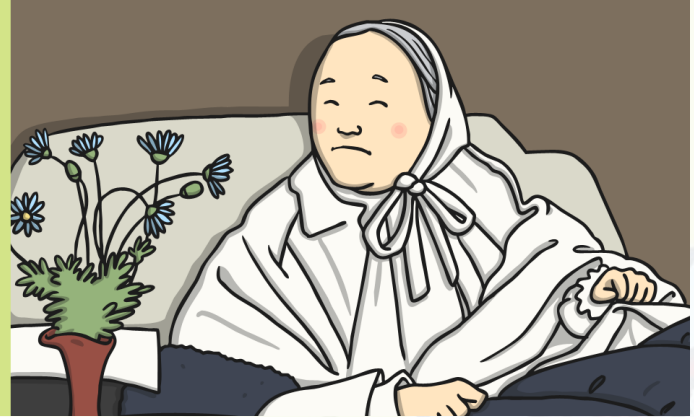
Florence with her nurses at St Thomas's Hospital.

Did you know?

Florence used the name 'Miss Smith' so people did not know who she really was.

After the War

She continued working to improve hospitals and nursing and she published her most famous books – *Notes on Nursing* and *Notes on Hospitals*. Unfortunately, over time, Florence became more and more ill. Florence Nightingale died on August 13th 1910, aged 90.



Florence Nightingale had received two special medals – the Royal Red Cross from Queen Victoria, as well as the Order of Merit.

How Do We Remember Florence Nightingale Today?

Nowadays, people still remember Florence Nightingale as one of the founders of modern nursing.

In London, there is a statue of her as a **memorial** of her work.

In 1893, an American nurse wrote The Nightingale Pledge, inspired by the work of Florence Nightingale. It was written as a kind of promise for people to make when they became a nurse.

Florence Nightingale helped to make nursing a better profession for women, and improved hospitals so they became the clean, hygienic places for patients to recover that we see today.

Thank you Florence Nightingale.



The Nightingale Pledge

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practise my profession faithfully.

I shall abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and shall not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I shall do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling.

I shall be loyal to my work and devoted towards the welfare of those committed to my care.

Glossary

ambition:

A strong wish to do something.

anaesthetic:

Medicine that stops you feeling pain.

determined:

Wanting to do something and not letting anything stop you.

diseases:

An infection that makes people or animals sick instead of an accident.

founders:

A person who starts an organisation or group.

hygiene/hygienic:

How people or places keep clean/being clean.

respectable:

Pleasant, good.

unhygienic:

Not clean, in a way that might cause disease.

wealthy:

With plenty of money.

Glossary

injured:

Hurt.

memorial:

Something that has been built to remember someone.

reporters:

People who share news through written or spoken reports.



Good Day, Miss Nightingale!

Take it in turns to pretend to be Florence Nightingale.

Think of questions you would like to ask her about her life and work.

Who?

What?

Where?

Which?

When?

How?