Florence Nightingale

Who was Florence Nightingale?

Florence Nightingale was a very famous nurse. She helped to change the way hospitals treated people and worked hard to make sure they were clean.

Childhood

Florence Nightingale was born on the 12ᵗʰ May 1820 in Italy. She lived with her father, her mother and her sister, Pop. Her family was a rich British family. Both girls were names after the places in Italy that they were born. They travelled around the world and the girls were given lessons by their father. Florence was very good at Maths and science. Florence believed that God wanted her to do important work. She knew she wanted to be a nurse.

Becoming a Nurse

Nursing was not a good job back then and the hospitals were horrible, dirty places. Florence's parents did not want her to become a nurse so they sent her away to Italy to try to make her forget about her plan. It didn't work. She returned even more determined and began to train as a nurse. Soon, she got her first job running a hospital for woman in London. She helped to make the hospital run much more smoothly so that the patients got better care.

The Crimean War

A terrible war broke out in the Crimea in 1853 with France, Britain and Turkey all fighting with Russia. The people in Britain read about the war and the dreadful way the soldiers were being cared for in the army hospitals. Florence went to the Crimea with a group of 38 nurses in November 1854. She made sure her and her team of nurses were clean and neat to help make the soldiers better. They scrubbed the hospital,

removed rats and the dirt and made sure there was proper food and medicine. What brave ladies they were! Florence Nightingale checked on the men every night. The British soldiers were very grateful for her kindness and they called her the Lady of the Lamp.