Key Vocabulary

Crimean War	A war from 1853 to 1856 that involved a number of countries in Europe.
infection	A type of illness caused by germs.
sewer	An underground pipe or area that carries away waste from toilets.
superintendent	A person who is in charge of something.



Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was a nurse who worked to make hospitals safer and cleaner. She saved many lives during the **Crimean War**.

Early Life

Florence was born in 1820 in Florence, Italy. Her parents were British but were travelling in Italy at the time. She was named after the city she was born in. She had an older sister.

Florence grew up in England and was homeschooled by her father. She studied subjects including German, French, Italian and maths.

Training to Be a Nurse

Florence's parents wanted her to get married and have a family. This was what was usually expected of wealthy women at the time. Florence wanted to be a nurse instead and believed it was a calling from God. Her parents disagreed at first.

Florence studied nursing in Germany in 1851.

Return to England

She returned home in 1853 and was a nurse at a women's hospital. She later became a **superintendent**.

The Crimean War

Florence was asked to travel to the **Crimean War** to manage nurses who would treat wounded soldiers. They arrived at the hospital in 1854.

Many soldiers were ill with **infection**. The **sewer** underneath the hospital wasn't working properly and this was causing illness.

Florence helped arrange for it to be fixed, as well as focusing on cleaning, hand washing, better food and more comfort. The number of soldiers dying went down a lot.

After Crimea

Florence returned to England with many ideas for improving hospitals. She met with Queen Victoria to talk about what she had found out.

Florence published a book called 'Notes on Nursing' to help teach others about what she had learnt.

She set up the Nightingale Training School for Nurses at St Thomas' Hospital in London.

Florence was unwell and could not leave her home often but she kept working for change.

12th May 1820
Florence is born.

1853
Florence is a nurse in England.

1854 - 1856
Florence is a nurse in the **Crimean War**.

1856
Florence meets with Queen Victoria.

1859
'Notes on Nursing' is published.

1860
The Nightingale Training School opens.

1883
Florence is awarded the Royal Red Cross.

13th August 1910
Florence dies at home.

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