Nurturing Nurses
Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale

Who was Florence Nightingale?

Look at the picture of Florence Nightingale. Talk to your partner:

1. Who do you think she was?

2. What do you think she did?

3. Why do you think she was a significant person?

Florence Nightingale Facts

Florence was born on the 12th May 1820 into a rich and upper-class British family. She was named Florence after the city in Italy where she was born.
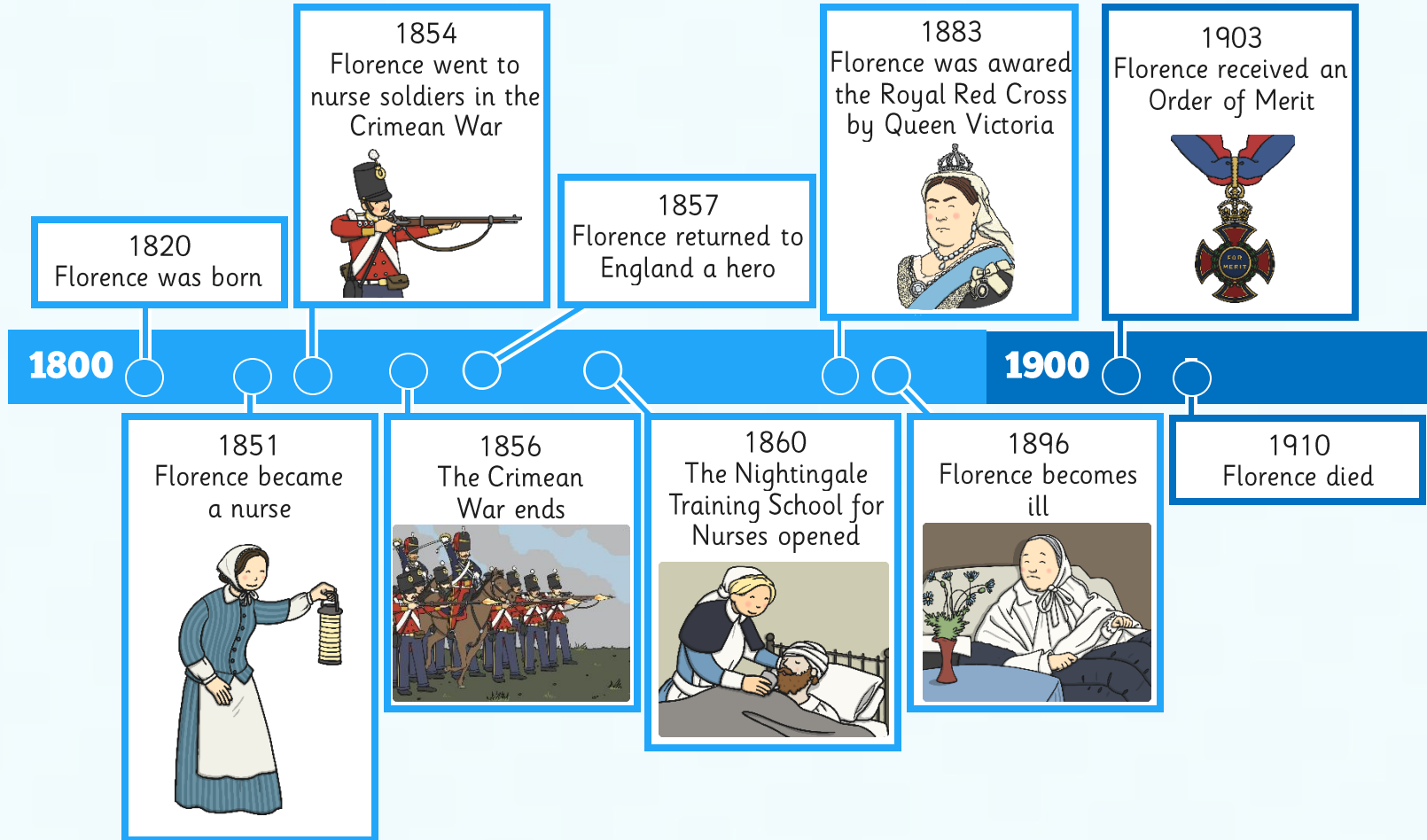
Florence worked hard to become a nurse, even though her family didn't want her to.

Between 1854 and 1856, Florence took some other nurses to the Ottoman Empire to care for the wounded soldiers fighting in the Crimean War.

Europe in 1856

Russian Empire

Prussia

Austro-Hungarian Empire

Florence

Crimea

Serbia

Wallachia

Scutari

Ottoman Empire

Ottoman Empire

Florence was known as 'The Lady with the Lamp' because when she was checking her patients during the night she held a lamp in her hand.

Florence Nightingale's Life

1854
Florence went to nurse soldiers in the Crimean War

1883
Florence was awarded the Royal Red Cross by Queen Victoria

1903
Florence received an Order of Merit

1820
Florence was born

1857
Florence returned to England a hero

1800

1900

1851
Florence became a nurse

1856
The Crimean War ends

1860
The Nightingale Training School for Nurses opened

1896
Florence becomes ill

1910
Florence died

Florence Nightingale

How did Florence help the soldiers?

Florence found the conditions in the hospital quite poor. They were overcrowded and unclean. Soldiers weren't properly cared for and many died from infection, rather than their actual wounds.
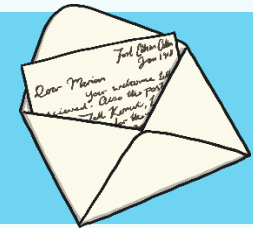

Florence worked hard to make the hospitals cleaner for the soldiers.

Florence decided to make conditions better. She bought basic things such as bandages, clothes, blankets and better food.

Florence also asked the government for supplies.

Florence checked on her soldiers during the night with a lamp and was given the name 'Lady with the Lamp'.

Florence Nightingale

How did Florence Nightingale improve nursing?

Florence established nursing as a respectable profession for women.

In 1860 the Nightingale School for Nurses opened in London. This was the first school set up to train nurses to work in hospitals.

Florence campaigned to improve health standards and wrote over 200 books and pamphlets on hospital planning. Some of their ideas helped influence practices which are still in existence today.

She also did lots of work on the health of the British Army and made changes that saved many lives.