



Florence conducted lots of research about food, death rates and doctors' training, and wrote lots of letters to important people trying to persuade them that change was needed.

1857 she presented her research to the Sanitary Commission, which led to the Army Medical College being set up in Chatham in **1859**. As a result of Florence's work, the army began training doctors, hospitals became cleaner, and soldiers received better food and clothes.

Unfortunately, during her time in Scutari, Florence had contracted an infection from which she never fully recovered.

By the time she was 38, she was bedridden for most of her days. However, this did not stop her - she continued her work from her bed.

In **1859** she published a book called Notes on Nursing. At 76 pages long, it was full of hints and tips on nursing, for both nurses and the 'ordinary woman'.

In **1860**, with the money she received from the government for her services during the Crimean War, she helped to found the Nightingale School and Home for Nurses in London. It was one of the first places to teach nursing as a formal profession.



Thanks to Florence, nursing was now seen as a respected and honourable career.

In **1907**, Florence was awarded the Order of Merit (a special award given by the ruling King or Queen) for her work and services in the development of nursing. This was the first time a woman had received the honour.

Florence Nightingale died on 13th August in **1910**, aged 90. Respecting her wishes, her family held a small, quiet funeral for her, despite the offer of an official burial in Westminster Abbey.



Florence Nightingale was born in **1820** into a wealthy family. She was named after the city she was born in - Florence, in Italy. She grew up in Britain, and led a very privileged life, having servants to attend to her needs, and going to frequent parties.



Florence was deeply religious, and believed that God wanted her to do important work. In **1844**, she announced she was going to become a nurse. Her parents were horrified at this decision - it was not seen as a respectable profession.

In **1851**, despite the anger and distress of her family, she attended a Christian nursing school in Germany for three months. It was hard work, but she loved it.

In **1853**, she was asked by a friend to run a hospital in London that cared for sick 'gentlewomen'. Florence received no money for doing this, but was able to put the nursing skills she had learnt into practice, and made lots of useful changes to the way the hospital was run.



In the same year, the Crimean War began. Reports in the papers told of appalling conditions in the hospitals of Turkey, where those wounded in battle were sent to be treated. More soldiers were dying from the diseases they caught in the hospital than in the battles they were fighting.

Sidney Herbert, who was the Minister of War, but also a friend of Florence, asked her to take a team of nurses to Turkey to try to improve the conditions there. In **1854**, she and 38 volunteer nurses travelled to Scutari Hospital. The conditions that they found there were terrible. Florence and her team immediately set to work. They cleaned the kitchens, and Florence hired a chef to cook better meals for the patients. She began a laundry to ensure that clothes and bedding were kept clean. The patients were washed, and their bandages were clean and changed regularly. She made sure that everyone washed their hands frequently.



Due to all of her interventions, Florence helped to reduce the death rate in the hospital dramatically, from 40% to just 2%. When the war was over in **1856**, she returned home a national hero. She met with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, discussing with them her time in Scutari, and her ideas for improving the military hospitals in Britain.