Florence Nightingale



Florence was born in 1820 in Florence in Italy.

Her very rich parents were on a tour of Europe which had taken years. Her sister was also named after the place she was born; her name was Parthenope.



Emberly Park in Hampshire

Lee Hurst in Derbyshire



When she was a child her fathers horse broke its leg. She begged him to be allowed to try to save it.

She nursed the horse back to health.

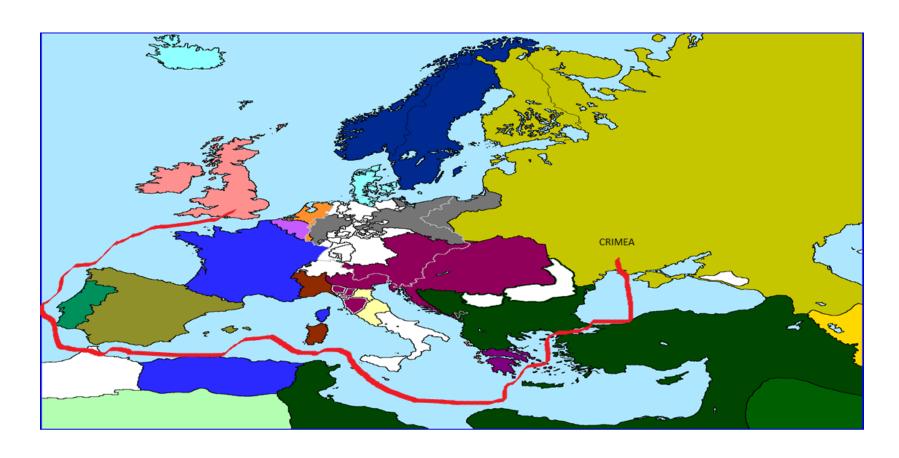
From then on she wanted to be a nurse.



When Florence's parents found out she wanted to be a nurse they were shocked. Nurses were poor and not very clean, and people thought they might steal too.



When Florence was 43 the Crimean war broke out. She immediately wanted to go and nurse. They travelled by sea all the way to the Crimea which is north of the Black Sea.



Sir Sidney Herbert was minister for war. He didn't want Florence to go. But Florence never gave up on anything she wanted so eventually he said yes and gave permission.





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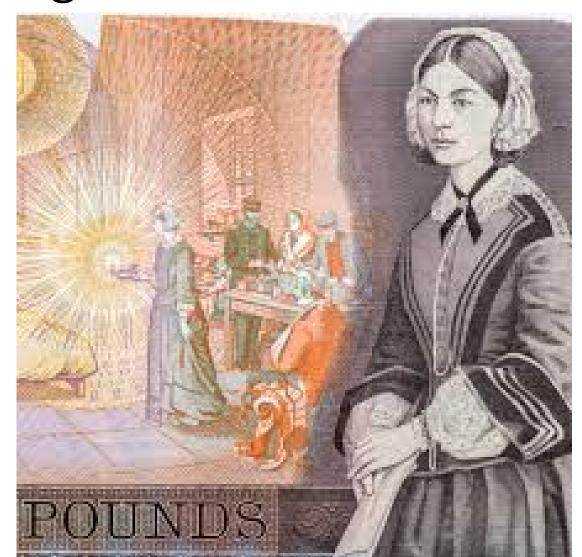


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When she arrived the wards were filthy and the soldiers had no clean bedding. She cleaned up the wards and bought bed sheets herself. She got recovering soldiers to grow vegetables which helped the patients recover.



She became very famous as the lady with the lamp. Her image was on the £10 note.



Mary Seacole was also a nurse. Unlike Florence she wasn't rich, and she went onto the battlefield to care for soldiers who had been wounded. She was a very good nurse and was given a medal by Queen Victoria.



Queen Victoria was very impressed with Florence and gave her a medal like Mary Seacoal. Florence was from a very rich family and Victoria and Albert liked her.



Florence set up a nursing school and she met every nurse trained there until she died aged 90.

