

HISTORY · Y1–Y4

Florence Nightingale & Victorian Britain

Knowledge Organiser — Y1–Y4

Florence Nightingale — key facts

1

Born

Florence, Italy, 12 May 1820. Died 1910, aged 90.

2

Crimean War (1853–1856)

Britain, France, and Turkey fought Russia. Nightingale went to Scutari (Turkey) to care for wounded British soldiers.

3

The Lady with the Lamp

She became famous for walking the hospital wards at night carrying a lamp to check on patients.

4

Key achievement

She dramatically cut the death rate at Scutari from around 42% to 2% by improving hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition.

5

Statistical pioneer

She invented a type of pie chart (the polar area diagram) to present hospital data — a revolutionary use of statistics.

6

Legacy

She founded the first secular nursing school in 1860 and established modern nursing as a profession.



Britain — key facts

The reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901)

- Queen Victoria reigned for 63 years — the longest of any British monarch at that time
- The population of Britain doubled from 14 million to 37 million during this period
- The Industrial Revolution transformed work — factories, railways, coal mines
- Child labour was common; many children worked in factories, mines, and as chimney sweeps
- Education Act 1870: free elementary education introduced for all children
- Rich and poor Victorians lived very different lives — the gap between wealth and poverty was enormous
- The British Empire grew to cover 25% of the world's land area
- Major inventions: telephone (1876), light bulb (1879), motor car (1880s)

