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## Female Pioneers in Healthcare

### Reading Comprehension

#### Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale is often referred to as the “lady with the lamp”. However, her efforts in nursing made a lasting impact on the world. She was the pioneer of nursing as we know it today, and also helped to set the standard for hospital sanitation methods.

Florence was born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy. She was named after this city. Florence was born into a wealthy family and they were surprised when she announced that she wanted to become a nurse after turning down many marriage proposals. At this time, nurses were usually working-class women. Florence’s desire to be a nurse was reinforced when she met Elizabeth Blackwell, the first female doctor in the United States. They were crusaders for changes in healthcare.

During the Crimean War, Florence volunteered her skills to care for the wounded soldiers. She was appalled with the conditions of the army hospital. Diseases such as dysentery, typhus, and cholera were killing more soldiers than the war wounds themselves.

Florence worked to change the cleanliness and sanitary conditions at the hospital. Due to her efforts, hospitals were cleaned and sanitized, which helped prevent endless deaths due to filth and disease. These changes saved many lives. Another one of her greatest achievements was to set up a nursing school and to bring nursing to a level of respect.

#### Story Questions:

1. What conclusion can you draw about Florence’s family based on the information provided in the passage?
  - a. They were religious and dedicated to missionary work.
  - b. They were wealthy and lived a life of luxury.
  - c. They were hard-working and faced many challenges.
  - d. They were lazy and undetermined.
  
2. What is the meaning of the phrase “crusaders for changes in healthcare” as used in the passage?
  - a. They paved a new path in the healthcare profession and for women.
  - b. They were connected and could not be separated.
  - c. They were willing to make sacrifices and get sick together.
  - d. They didn’t like any of the male doctors, so they spent all of their time together.

3. Which statement explains why Florence's changes in hospital conditions and procedures were so effective?
  - a. People shared similar experiences as Florence did in other hospitals.
  - b. Books were written about Florence.
  - c. Florence travelled to every hospital around the world to clean them.
  - d. They were modern procedures on cleanliness.

### Letter Writing

4. **Imagine** that you were a soldier in the Crimean War who was treated by Florence Nightingale. **Write** a thank-you letter to her.

### Math Worksheet

5. **Practise** [calculating the perimeter and area of rectangles](#).

### Word Problems

6. **Read** the word problems below and **write** the answers.
  - ★ Florence's parents are going to replant their lawn with fresh sod. Their property is 120 metres wide and 90 metres deep. The house is 80 metres long and 60 metres deep. The garage is 40 metres wide and 20 metres deep. Florence needs to figure out how many square metres are not occupied by the house and the garage. What is the area of the property in square metres? What is the area of the house in square metres? What is the area of the garage in square metres? How many square metres will be covered by the sod to make a new lawn?
  - ★ After all of the sod is planted, Florence is going to plant flowers along the entire perimeter of her parent's property. How many metres of flowers will Florence plant?

### Fun Stuff!

7. **Create** a poster, painting, drawing, or collage that takes inspiration from the following quote by Florence Nightingale: "I attribute my success to this - I never gave or took any excuse."