

Florence Nightingale (nurse, statistician, social reformer, and writer)

(May 12,1820-August 13, 1910)



Florence Nightingale is known as the founder of modern nursing. She revolutionized the field of nursing, making it a more respectable career for women and helped change the public perception of nurses who work in the hospital. She made hygiene a part of the healthcare of the patients in the hospitals. But she is much more than that! She made significant contributions in the field of statistics and was the first woman elected to the Royal Statistical Society. Florence's use of statistics to make improvements in healthcare established a new standard for how health data should be collected and used. This laid the groundwork for the field of epidemiology. Florence is also famous for inventing the "polar area diagram" also known as the "Nightingale rose diagram". This innovative chart allowed Florence to visually represent the causes of death in military hospitals, highlighting the impact of preventable diseases.

Her science journey began when Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Grand Duchy of Tuscany on May 12, 1820. Florence's father was born William Edward Shore. William's mother Mary Evans Shore was the niece of Peter Nightingale, a wealthy landowner whose estate in Derbyshire, England is called Lea Hurst. When he died, William inherited Lea Hurst and under the terms of the will, William assumed the name and arms of Nightingale. So, William became known as William Nightingale and his two daughters used the last name

Nightingale. Florence's mother Fanny Smith Nightingale was the daughter of the abolitionist and Unitarian William Smith.

When William and Fanny got married, they went on their honeymoon in Italy.

Their first child Frances Parthenope was born in Naples and was named after the ancient Greek colony which eventually became part of Naples. Their second child was born in Florence, Italy so they named her Florence. The family moved back to England in 1821, and Frances Parthenope known as "Parthenope or Parthe in short" and Florence were brought up in the family's homes at Embley, Hampshire and Lea Hurst, Derbyshire.



William Nightingale believed that boys and girls should have equal access to a good education. He taught his daughters history, mathematics, Italian, classical literature, and philosophy. Florence was more academic than Parthenope; after a few years Parthenope stopped studying while Florence continued her studying, moving on to other sciences.

Their mother's nine siblings also lived in Hampshire, so the girls grew up playing with their cousins. When Florence was nine years old, she began to keep records of all the illnesses and health problems she observed in her large family, including the remedies prescribed for these illnesses. When Florence herself got whooping cough, Parthenope observed that her sister nursed her 13 dolls with the same treatments she received.

In September 1837, the family left for a tour of Europe. They first went to France then Italy. After a year in Italy, they went to Switzerland and then finished their tour in Paris. There they met Mary Clarke, a middle-aged, unmarried daughter of a friend of Florence's aunt. Mary preferred to be called "Clarkey" and was not concerned with the fashions and traditions of her society. Her example made a big impression on the young Florence!

The family moved back to England in April 1839. There the girls spent their time taking music lessons and practicing piano. Florence would soon make her debut as Parthenope had several years earlier. The debut marked a young woman's formal

entrance into society and her eligibility for marriage. Marriage was important to the Nightingale family because Peter Nightingale's will stated that if William Nightingale had no male heirs, the estate would pass on to William's sister and not to his daughters or wife.

Florence was not interested in marriage. She was interested in studying! When her cousin Henry, a student at Cambridge, came to visit, he taught her algebra. Florence was intrigued by algebra! She thought it was fascinating! She asked her parents to let her continue studying mathematics with a tutor. Her mother refused but Florence found support from her father's sister, Mai. Aunt Mai and her husband Sam believed that Florence had potential, so she told Fanny and William that Florence needed an outlet for her intelligence and energy. This was unheard of in those times when women rarely study the sciences!

Fanny relented and agreed to have a Presbyterian minister tutor Florence in mathematics. Florence learned quickly. She even taught another cousin, William Nicholson, when he was getting ready to attend the Royal Military Academy. This arrangement was kept secret so that no one would look down on William for being taught by a woman.

Florence always dreamt of being of service to her fellow man. She had a vision that God wanted her to do such service. And she thought that maybe helping the sick and disabled was God's plan for her. In 1844, she made a plan to pursue her ambitions in the field of nursing. When she turned 25, she told her family about her plans. She hoped to go to a nearby hospital, the Salisbury Infirmary, to learn from a doctor who was a friend of the family. After three months of studying under this doctor, she hoped to begin an organization of upper class, educated women who would like to become nurses. The Nightingales were shocked and horrified at this proposition! The hospitals of the mid-1800s were in very poor condition. Hospitals were places for the desperately poor, not for the wealthy who were treated at home. They were dirty and infested with rats. Nurses were not professionals but lower-class women with little or no training. Nursing was simply a job for unskilled women who needed work. They were widows and women who had failed as servants. They had a bad reputation for drinking or sometimes as sex workers. The Nightingales absolutely could not let Florence take on such work!

But Florence had heard of places where respectable women worked as nurses – nuns in religious orders. She hoped to work in such an institution. After two months of researching this idea, she asked her father to let her go to Ireland and study nursing with the nuns in a hospital. When her parents rejected her idea of going into nursing this way, she fell into depression. She wrote that she would rather die than do nothing of value with her life.

She then decided that she would study healthcare in secret. During the day, she followed her family and society's expectations. She embroidered, helped the poor, tutored her cousins, and went out with a suitor, Richard Monckton Milnes. But in the evening when she was alone, while her family was sleeping, she studied health care and hospital reports. She learned about common illnesses and about the living conditions of the poor. But even while she was studying, her physical and mental health suffered. The family decided that she needed new surroundings. They told Florence to accept an invitation from their friends Charles and Selina Bracebridge, to accompany them to Rome. The family hoped that the trip would help Florence recover and also distract her from her dreams of becoming a nurse.

Selina became a confidant of Florence. She listened to and understood Florence's dreams of becoming a nurse. When they arrived in Paris, Florence met her old friend Clarkey. In Rome, they visited the Forum, the Colosseum, and the Sistine Chapel. There they met another English couple, Sidney and Liz Herbert. Liz and Florence went to visit Italian hospitals which they found filthy, crowded, and lacking any spaces for fresh air or exercise.

While attending a prayer gathering at St. Peter's Basilica, Florence noticed a young beggar on the street. The girl's name was Felicetta. She lived with her aunt.

Florence asked permission to help Felicetta. She enrolled Felicetta in a convent school where she would be well cared for. Florence met Madre Santa Columba, the head of the convent school. Madre Santa Columba invited Florence to attend a ten-day spiritual retreat and encouraged her to follow her dream of becoming a nurse.

Florence returned to England in 1848. Her health had improved but now she had a new conflict with her family. Her suitor for the past 7 years, Richard Monckton Milnes, 1st Baron Houghton, decided to propose to her. The family liked Richard.



He was intelligent, well-traveled, and well-connected. He was a member of Parliament, a poet, and had written a biography of Keats. Florence liked Richard also but despite his kindness and their shared intellectual interests, she always felt a need to do significant good in the world. So, she turned down his proposal.

She decided to accompany the Bracebridges on another trip, this time to Egypt and Greece. Florence met two nuns who served as nurses. The nuns invited her to visit the hospital in Alexandria. She saw people who suffered from illnesses such as dysentery. They visited the pyramids and other famous sites, but Florence did not enjoy these visits. She was losing hope that she would ever be able to realize her dream of becoming a nurse.

One day walking through an Egyptian village, she heard the voice of Madre Santa Columba encouraging her to hold on to her dream.

While on a tour of Athens, the Bracebridges offered to take her to Germany on their way back to England. They would spend two weeks in Dusseldorf, Germany, allowing Florence to spend the time at the nearby nursing institute Kaiserswerth. The institute which was started by Lutherans in the 19th century, allowed Protestant women to serve God through nursing. It consisted of a hospital, a school, and an



orphanage. Florence spent two weeks studying at the hospital. The hospital training for nurses usually took two years but the two weeks she spent there invigorated her. She knew then that she was on the right path. She helped the institute by writing a pamphlet to make English

people aware of its work. In the pamphlet, she wrote that nursing is a way for women to do something significant to serve God.

Upon her return to England, her family was not happy to hear that she worked for two weeks at the institute. The publication of the pamphlet made them very unhappy! Though it was published anonymously, they guessed it correctly that Florence wrote it. The family wanted her to focus on nursing her sickly older sister Parthe.

Then in 1851, her parents changed their minds. They agreed to let Florence spend three months at Kaiserswerth nursing institute while Parthe visited a nearby German mineral water spa to improve her health. It seems that her parents were worried about the mental health of Florence. They also had come to realize that nursing was no longer the inappropriate profession for an educated, upper-class woman which it had once been. The institute at Kaiserswerth was changing the reputation of nursing, and a similar religious organization had recently begun in England. Though they allowed Florence to go to Kaiserswerth, her mother wanted to keep her studies a secret. In July, Florence helped with surgery, cared for the dying, and worked in the children's ward. She paid attention to how the hospital was being managed.

Upon her return to England, she and her father traveled to west-central England to find treatment for his eyes. Then she went to Ireland with other friends. Her father offered her a house he recently inherited to start her nursing sisterhood, but Florence told him that she needed more training. She went to Paris in 1853 to work with a Roman Catholic sisterhood. Almost as soon as she began work with the Sisters of Charity, she was called back to England because of the declining health of her paternal grandmother. Florence was the most qualified to stay by her grandmother's side. Florence took care of her grandmother until she died.

After the death of Florence's grandmother, Selina Bracebridge recommended Florence to become the new superintendent of a small charity hospital called Establishment for Gentlewomen During Illness. The hospital served educated women such as widows or former governesses who might not have the means or family to receive care at home. Florence insisted that she would only take the job if she could observe everything: doctors, surgeries, and the nursing staff. She wanted to have the freedom to make changes to improve the hospital. The management's only condition was that Florence live in the establishment. As a gentlewoman,

Florence would not receive a salary and would have her own servant. Her father gave her an allowance to live on.

Florence supervised everything and found many improvements had to be made. Everything needed cleaning, and the linens needed mending. She oversaw the maids and all the workmen finishing work on the buildings. She replaced underperforming staff and managed the budget. When she realized that the hospital would not admit Catholic women, she threatened to resign unless that policy was changed. After one year, satisfied that the changes she made were enough to keep the hospital running smoothly, she resigned to focus her attention on other pressing matters.

At that time, there was an outbreak of cholera in London. Florence believed that rotting plant and animal matter gave off foul air that caused disease so improved sanitation could be the solution. She volunteered at the Middlesex Hospital serving the cholera patients. When a doctor realized that the outbreaks were caused by the water supply – all the patients had drunk water from one pump - he asked the city to close the water pump. That helped stop the outbreak. Florence returned home and rested for a while.

As the Crimean War broke out, the news in England filled with stories about horrible conditions in war front hospitals. While the French soldiers were nursed by the Catholic Sisters of Charity, the British soldiers suffered. Many people in England asked why the British did not send trained nurses to Crimea. An old friend



of Florence, Sidney Herbert, asked the same question. He was now Secretary of War. Sidney

proposed that Florence go to Crimea and organize and manage the hospital and nursing staff. Florence accepted, so she and 38 nurses traveled to work at the Barrack Hospital. The hospital was located in Scutari, the district of Istanbul now known as Üsküdar. It is located on the Asian shore of the Bosphorus, opposite the peninsula of Istanbul which is where the main tourist sites are located: the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, and Topkapi Palace.

The Barrack Hospital was built in 1800 to quarter Turkish soldiers. During the Crimean War, Turkey offered it to the British who turned it into a treatment center.



When Florence and her nurses arrived in Scutari, the conditions were worse than they expected. The sheets and bandages were unwashed, and most of the soldiers suffered from dysentery. Almost 200 women and children lived in the building's filthy cellars. The whole place was dirty with rats, bedbugs, lice, and fleas. Water was so contaminated that the nurses drank wine or beer. The senior medical officers did not want Florence and her nurses. The chief medical officer opposed any changes. He ordered the nurses out of the wards. Florence and the nurses cleaned everything, sewed bandages and shirts, and cooked broth for the sick soldiers.

The October 1854 Battle of Balaclava and the November 1854 Battle of Inkerman

brought so many wounded soldiers - almost 2000 - to the hospital that the medical officers were overwhelmed! They relented and let the nurses help take care of the soldiers. The nurses did everything from cleaning and helping bandage the wounded to sewing straw mattresses. Florence gained the trust of the medical officers and they began making improvements. They asked the wives of the



soldiers to help clean the hospital and do the laundry. She asked her friends to buy needed supplies like sheets, shirts, and saucepans using the donations given by the British people. A famous chef, Alexis Soyer, traveled to Scutari to improve the kitchens and train the kitchen staff. The reports about the Barrack Hospital reached England and an angry public voted for a new prime minister. He instituted changes in the way the Hospital was run. He sent a sanitary commission that worked on major projects such as unclogging the sewers and replacing rotten floors. These brought amazing results! After a few months, by March 1855, only a fifth of the soldiers admitted to the hospital died.

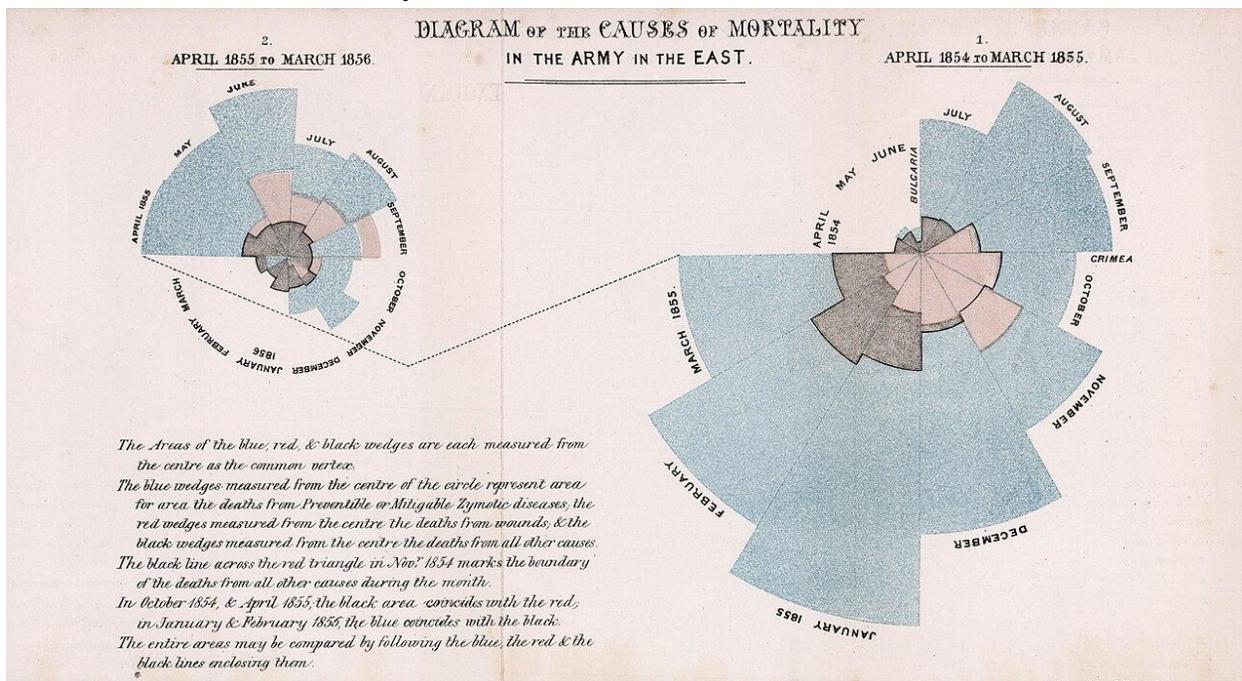
Back in England, news about the works of Florence Nightingale began to spread. They called her the “Lady with the Lamp” as people read news reporter John Macdonald’s reports about her carrying a lamp between cots of soldiers in dark hallways, checking on her patients in the middle of the night. She became a celebrity and her family was honored by Queen Victoria.

Florence expressed her desire to see the same standards of nursing in other British hospitals. As she visited the other Crimean hospitals friends noticed that Florence was ill. She came down with a high fever and extreme fatigue. A doctor diagnosed her with Crimean fever, a disease which some scholars now associate with brucellosis. Without treatment with antibiotics, the disease could become chronic, causing intermittent recurrence of its symptoms which include fever, exhaustion, and pain. She refused to return to England even under extreme pain.

Florence did a lot of writing, from official reports to letters for injured soldiers and letters to families of soldiers who have died. She calculated statistics relating to the hospital. In 1856, the scientific adviser of the Secretary of War arrived to visit the hospitals. After a tour of both the Turkish hospitals and those at the Crimean Peninsula, he recommended that all nurses be placed under the supervision of Florence. Now Florence could make sure all the hospitals were operated on a high standard. In 1856, the last soldier left Barrack Hospital and Florence could return to England.

By the time she returned to England, important citizens of London had established the Nightingale Fund so Florence could open a nursing school. Donations were pouring in and there was enough money to open the school. But before she could open the school, she wanted to finish a report about the conditions she saw at the

Crimean War. She wanted the government to make improvements in how the soldiers were treated. With the help of some well-connected friends, she was able to meet Queen Victoria and her husband Albert. Queen Victoria herself did not have actual political power, but she introduced Florence to Lord Panmure who was the secretary of state for war. Lord Panmure promised to help bring improvements to military healthcare. Florence wrote an 800-page report called *Notes of Matters Affecting the Health Efficiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army*. In her report, she supported her observations with statistics, using graphs and tables to make the information easy for readers to understand. One of the diagrams she used to support her research is called the Nightingale Rose Diagram or Coxcomb Plot, a radial, circular graph used to visualize the often, preventable, high mortality rates of British soldiers during the Crimean War. It used 12 equal-angled wedges for months, and their varying radii represented data magnitudes. These showed that most deaths were caused by disease rather than battle wounds.



One of the immediate consequences of the report was reforms to the crowded and unsanitary barracks and military hospitals.

Florence had another bout of Crimean fever and almost died. She shut herself in her room with work, becoming crankier and more irritable and refusing to admit even good friends. She hardly left the hotel she was staying in and missed the wedding of Parthe to Sir Harry Verney.

Now that she had finished the military report, she set her sights on her dream of opening a nursing school. The school was located at St. Thomas Hospital in London, an old and reputable institute. Though Florence was not well enough to teach, the hospital's head nurse, Elizabeth Wardroper, was well respected and experienced despite her lack of formal education. She oversaw the Nightingale School of Nursing's first students who arrived in 1860. The students who were all



female, received a stipend as well as room and board. They would study for a year at school and then for three years would work in a hospital to complete their training. Florence kept track of the students' progress and developed administrative methods for the school.

Florence was also busy writing at this time. She published several books, beginning with *Notes on Hospitals* published in 1859, *Notes on Nursing* (also 1859), *Suggestions for Thought for Searchers after Religious Truth*, an 829-page, three-volume work, which Florence had printed privately in 1860, but which until recently was never published in its entirety, and *Cassandra*, an essay written to protest the over feminization of women into near helplessness. She had seen this happen to her mother and sister despite their education. The essay also reflects her fear of her ideas being ineffective, just like Cassandra, the princess of Troy who served as a priestess in the temple of Apollo during the Trojan War. The god Apollo

gave Cassandra the gift of prophecy, but when she refused his advances, he cursed her so that her prophetic warnings would go unheeded.

In London, she moved between different rented houses until her father purchased a house for her in London's Hyde Park. She was difficult to live with and constantly criticized her maids for not performing to her high standards. Now that she had accomplished her goal of improving health care in the military and starting a nursing school, she set her sights on improving health care in India, a British colony. She heard that the conditions of soldiers in India were similar to those of the soldiers she found in Scutari. She could not travel to India but corresponded with officers stationed in India. Florence made a comprehensive statistical study of sanitation in Indian rural life and was the leading figure in the introduction of improved medical care and public health services in India. She urged Parliament to act and wrote pamphlets to inform the public.

She also turned her attention beyond the military in England. She was concerned about the poor and the conditions in the infirmaries of the workhouses where there were no trained nurses and unsanitary conditions. Many people did not see this as a problem. They thought that poor people need incentives to work hard to get out of these poor conditions. Florence did not agree with this view and argued that all people deserve good care when they get sick. She helped solve this problem by training nurses although she would have wanted to tackle the problems of housing the poor also.

With the help of a rich merchant, William Rathbone, Florence was able to send some of the nurses from the Nightingale School into the workhouse infirmary in Liverpool. This resulted in improvements in health care for the poor and soon other cities began to follow the Liverpool model. Parliament changed the Poor Law so that the poor had access to hospitals.

In the late 1860's Florence dedicated her time to writing and taking care of her parents and sister Parthe. After her father died in 1874, her Aunt Mai inherited the estate because William did not have a male heir. Florence's mother continued to live with Parthe and her husband Sir Harry.

As the years passed, she was able to visit the nursing school she started and traveled to see her sister and Sir Harry. In 1890, Parthe died and in 1894, Sir Harry

died also. She has outlived most of her family members, but her health was failing too. She was so weak that Aunt Mai's grandson accepted the Order of Merit award from the king on her behalf. He also accepted on her behalf the award given by the city of London called the Freedom of the City of London.

On the afternoon of August 13, 1910, Florence fell asleep in her chair and quietly died in her sleep. She was 90 years old. She was honored by many, not only for her work in healthcare reform, but also because she helped open possibilities for women to work in the field of nursing. On August 20, 1910, thousands attended her memorial service in London. She was buried near Embley, beside the graves of her parents.

HER LEGACY

Florence Nightingale is considered the founder of modern nursing. She helped open possibilities for women to work in the field of nursing.

She will also be remembered for her contributions to statistics and being the first woman elected to the Royal Statistical Society, in 1859.

In 1874, she became an honorary member of the American Statistical Association.

She will be remembered for inventing the Nightingale Rose Diagram or Coxcomb Plot, a radial, circular graph originally used to visualize the often, preventable, high mortality rates of British soldiers during the Crimean War.

She will be remembered for the first official nurses' training program in England, the Nightingale School for Nurses which opened in 1860 at the St. Thomas Hospital in London. It is now called the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery at King's College London.

She will be remembered for the 200 books she has written.

In 1883, Florence became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. In 1904, she was appointed a Lady of Grace of the Order of St John (LGStJ). In 1907, she became the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit. In the following year she was given the Honorary Freedom of the City of London.



In 1912, the International Committee of the Red Cross instituted the Florence Nightingale Medal which is awarded every two years to nurses or nursing aides for outstanding service. It is the highest international distinction a nurse can achieve and is awarded to nurses or nursing aides for "exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick, or disabled or to civilian victims of a conflict or disaster" or "exemplary services or a creative and pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education"

Since 1965, the annual International Nurses Day has been celebrated on her birthday, May 12.

In 1955, a blue plaque was erected by the London County Council at 10 South Street, Mayfair, London in honor of Florence Nightingale.

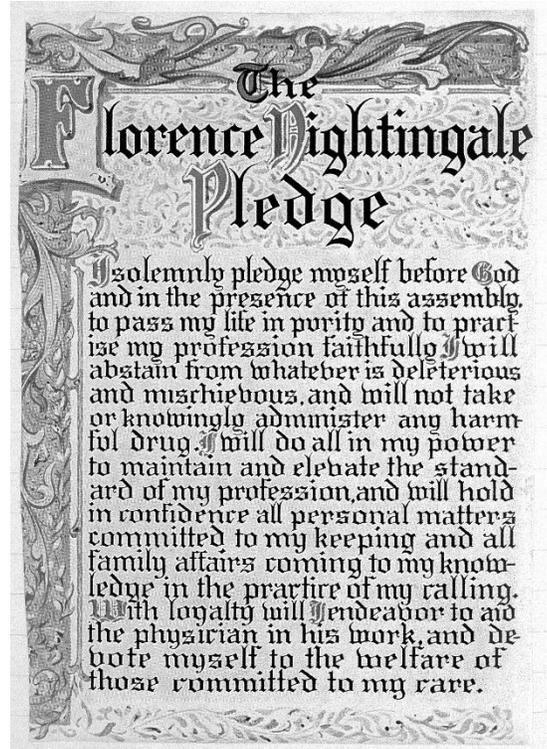


The Nightingale Pledge is a modified version of the Hippocratic Oath which nurses in the United States recite at their pinning ceremony at the end of their training. Created in 1893 and named after Nightingale as the founder of modern nursing, the pledge is a statement of the ethics and principles of the nursing profession.

During the Vietnam War, Florence inspired many US Army nurses. The Agostino Gemelli Medical School, the first university-based hospital in Italy honored Florence's contribution to the nursing profession by giving the name "Bedside Florence" to a wireless computer system it developed to assist nursing.

Four hospitals in Istanbul are named after Florence Nightingale: Florence Nightingale Hospital in Şişli (the biggest private hospital in Turkey), Metropolitan Florence Nightingale Hospital in Gayrettepe, European Florence Nightingale Hospital in Mecidiyeköy, and Florence Nightingale Hospital in Kadıköy, all belonging to the Turkish Cardiology Foundation.

A statue of Florence Nightingale by the 20th-century war memorialist Arthur George Walker stands in Waterloo Place, Westminster, London.



The Florence Nightingale Museum at St. Thomas Hospital in London reopened in May 2010, in time for the centenary of Florence's death.

Florence Nightingale's image appeared on the reverse of £10 banknotes issued by the Bank of England from 1975 until 1994.



The centenary of Florence's death in 2010 was commemorated with a £2 coin issued by the Royal Mint showing her taking a patient's pulse.

Several churches in the Anglican Communion commemorate Florence with a feast day on their liturgical calendars. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commemorates her as a Renewer of Society with Clara Maass on August 13. Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman ordained priest in the Anglican Communion, in 1944, took Florence as her baptismal name in honor of Florence Nightingale.

Washington National Cathedral celebrates Florence's accomplishments with a double-lancet stained-glass window featuring six scenes from her life, designed by artist Joseph G. Reynolds and installed in 1983.

The US Navy ship the USS *Florence Nightingale* (AP-70) was commissioned in 1942. Beginning in 1968, the US Air Force operated a fleet of 20 C-9A "Nightingale" aeromedical evacuation aircraft, based on the McDonnell Douglas DC-9 platform.

In 1981, the asteroid 3122 Florence was named after her.

On May 11, 2008, Google made a doodle to commemorate her birthday.



HER SCIENCE JOURNEY

1820 – Florence Nightingale was born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, Italy

1821 - Florence's family moved back to England

1837 - The family toured Europe

1839 - The family came back to England for Florence's debut. Florence was not interested in marriage and instead focused her attention on mathematics.

1844 - Florence had a vision that God wants her to work for her fellowmen.

1845 - She told her family that she wanted to pursue nursing as a career. Her plans were rejected again. Florence went on a tour of Rome with family friends Charles and Selina Bracebridge.

1848 - Her suitor Richard Monckton Milnes proposed to her and she rejected his proposal. Toured Egypt and Greece with Charles and Selina Bracebridge. Trained at Kaiserswerth Institute in Dusseldorf, Germany for two weeks

1851 - Returned to Kaiserswerth Institute for three months of training

1853 -Went to Paris to work with a Roman Catholic Sisterhood, then went back to England almost immediately to take care of her grandmother until her grandmother died.

She became the superintendent of Establishment for Gentlewomen During Illness.

1854 - Resigned and looked for jobs in other areas of healthcare. She helped take care of patients during the cholera outbreak. Florence and 38 nurses traveled to Scutari to help take care of the wounded British soldiers

1856 - The last soldier left Scutari and Florence was able to go back to England

1858 - Wrote *Notes of Matters Affecting the Health Efficiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army*. In her report, she supported her observations with statistics, using graphs and tables.

1859 - Published her books. Elected as the first woman to be a member of the Royal Statistical Society

1860 - Opened the first official nurses' training program in England, the Nightingale School for Nurses at the St. Thomas Hospital in London. It is now called the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery at King's College London.

Helped with improving healthcare in India.

1874 - Florence's father William died.

1883 - Florence became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross

1890 - Her sister Pathe died.

1893 - Florence Nightingale Pledge was instituted.

1894 - Her brother-in-law Sir Harry died.

1904 - She was appointed a Lady of Grace of the Order of St John (LGStJ)

1907 - She became the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit

1908 - She was given the Honorary Freedom of the City of London.

1910 - Florence died in her sleep at the age of 90 years old

1912 - The International Committee of the Red Cross instituted the Florence Nightingale Medal which is awarded every two years to nurses or nursing aides for outstanding service.

1942 - The USS *Florence Nightingale* Navy ship was commissioned

1955 - A blue plaque was erected by the London County Council at 10 South Street, Mayfair, London in honor of Florence Nightingale.

1965 - The annual International Nurses Day was started and celebrated on her birthday, May 12

1983 - Glass-stained windows were installed at Washington National Cathedral featuring six scenes from the life of Florence Nightingale

2008 - Doodle about Florence Nightingale was created by Google

2010 - Florence Nightingale Museum at St. Thomas Hospital in London reopened.

2010 - The centenary of Florence's death was commemorated with a £2 coin issued by the Royal Mint showing her taking a patient's pulse.

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