

Good morning boys and girls. My name is Florence Nightingale and I lived a very long time ago. I believe you saw a video about me yesterday. I was born in 1820 (over 170 yrs ago) and I died at the ripe old age of 90. Now that's old!!! I led quite an exciting life. I was born in Italy in a beautiful town called Florence. That's how I got my name.

Ever since I can remember, I've wanted to be a nurse. Well, that was unheard of when I lived. My parents did not want me to become a nurse because it was not a suitable profession for a woman like me.

\*\*\*\*Who knows someone who is a nurse?

\*\*\*\*Who thinks they might want to be a nurse someday?

When I was 31 yrs. old, I left Italy to go to Germany for my nursing training. Because I loved my work and did my nursing so well, I was put in charge of a hospital for very ill women. Well, 4 yrs. later, Britain and France went to war with Russia and I went to take care of the ill soldiers who were hurt in the war.

The hospitals for the soldiers were absolutely dreadful. Rats were crawling all around. There were no toothbrushes or combs or forks and knives. The hospital was filthy dirty, there were no proper beds, or good food. There were far too many soldiers for too few medical people. So, seeing that something had to be done, I decided that I would get the hospital organized.

\*\*\*\*Who has ever been in a hospital?

\*\*\*\*What was it like?

Well, I went to work and with the help of many other people, we cleaned up the hospital, got proper beds for the soldiers, good healthy food and proper care from the doctors and nurses. And guess what? The soldiers got better and were able to go home. I used to go around at night with my lamp to see about the soldiers. I worked very hard to help the soldiers get well.

After the war, I went to England and decided that I would use my skills as a nurse to teach other people how to be a good nurse. I lived my life caring for ill people and doing the job that I loved. It doesn't matter who you are, whether you're rich or poor, big or small, boy or girl - when you do good for others, it's the right thing to do.

\*\*\*\*Any questions?