

# Eureka with Archimedes

## Florence Nightingale script

**A. Now we have a guest who saved hundreds of lives and is one of the most famous people in the history of nursing, please welcome, Miss Florence Nightingale!**

F. Thank you Archimedes, I am very excited for our interview.

**A. Would you like to start your interview now?**

F. Why, of course.

**A. Okay, Florence, when and where were you born?**

F. I was born in 1820, on the twelfth of May, in Florence, Italy. My parents, William and Fanny Nightingale named me after the city I was born in.

**A. Did you live in Italy your entire life?**

F. No, when I was five my family moved to Lea Hurst, England

**A. Did you have any siblings?**

F. I had one sister, "Parthenope".

**A. That is an interesting name. What made you want to be a nurse? Where did you go to nursing school?**

F. I began to visit the poor, and I was very interested in the sick. Eventually, I began to visit hospitals in London looking for occupations for nurses there. In 1851, I went to school at the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses in Kaiserswerth. I spent four months at Kaiserswerth training as a sick nurse.

**A. Can you tell us about your personal life while you were young? Is it true you never married?**

F. Yes. I turned down several offers of marriage. My mother was very disappointed.

**A. Now lets get to the part our audience has been dieing to hear, what made you famous?**

F. I am probably most famous for inventing modern nursing.

**A. I heard the Crimean war had a huge impact on your life, is this true?**

F. Yes, infact that brings me to another thing I am famous for. Reports reached me that there

were many sufferings of the sick and wounded in the war hospitals. Several months later, I offered my services to the War Office. They allowed me to lead a group of 38 nurses to Crimea.

**A. What happened after you arrived at the military hospital?**

F. I was thoroughly disgusted.

**A. Why?**

F. There were no blankets or hospital cloths, the men were still in their uniforms, covered in blood and dirt, the food was rotten and moldy, I could go on and on about it.

**A. Wow, that's terrible, did the men get sick because of all the filth?**

F. Yes, exactly Archimedes, many were dying, not because of their wounds, but because of diseases and infections.

**A. When you came did you greatly improve the welfare of the men?**

F. Yes, I established a kitchen and laundry and helped my patients families by paying for their daily needs. By June 1855 the death rate had fallen to 2%.

**A. They were lucky to have you to help. Did your patients ever make a nickname for you?**

F. Yes, they called me "The Lady of the Lamp" because I would be up at late hours, with my lamp checking on them.

**A. Since you were always around the sick, did you ever fall ill?**

F. Yes, I caught the Crimean fever, and was very ill for 12 days.

**A. When did the Crimean war end? And what came next for you after it did?**

F. The war ended in March 1856 and I returned to England in August privately in a French ship.

**A. What did you do when you got back to England?**

F. I went to the Queen, and told her about the military hospitals, and the sanitary reforms that were needed. And then, a year later, I gave my evidence to the Sanitary Commission.

F. I was able to raise money to improve the quality of nursing and I also published two books to spread my opinions.

**A. How much money did you raise? And what did you do with it?**

F. I raised 59,000 pounds, and I used this money to build the Nightingale School and Home for Nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital. Of course, I had a little help from wealthy friends.

**A. Wow, that's so great. Did you enjoy teaching?**

F. Well, I did not teach there much. I retired and settled in London, but this did not stop me from sending letters of advice and encouragement to my students. I was able to use my experiences at the Crimea to help teach.

**A. Did you ever get involved in any other wars or times that required you to leave home in your later life?**

F. Well, I offered my services again when the Indian Mutiny broke out, in 1857. But my services were not required. But, I didn't stop there. I also became interested in the sanitary conditions of the people in India. From my work, a Sanitary Department was established in the Indian Government. I demanded that there should be improvements in the sanitation and health there.

**A. Wow, you really cared about the people in India. Did you receive any awards in your life time?**

F. Yes, several. Everyone was so grateful for what I did at the Crimea.

**A. Now the last question. It's always sad, but I always have to ask this one, when and where did you die?**

F. At the age of ninety, on August 13, I died in my room on South Street, London.

**A. Well, thank you for coming and telling us about your life, Miss Nightingale, the audience and I have greatly appreciated it.**

F. Thank you for having me, I thoroughly enjoyed our interview.