

Mary Seacole

Mary Jane Seacole was born in 1805 in Kingston, Jamaica. She lived a selfless life caring for sick and injured people. She showed great bravery and determination during the Crimean War when she nursed injured soldiers near the battlefield.



What Was Mary's Early Life Like?

Mary's father was a Scottish soldier and her mother was Jamaican. Her mother ran a hotel and worked as a healer. Mary described herself as **Creole** because of her parents' different backgrounds. She learnt about medicine by watching her mother work.

When Mary was born, many Black people in Jamaica were enslaved. This meant they were forced to work without pay. Mary's mother was a free Jamaican, meaning that she was not enslaved. However, she was still not treated as an equal by many people. Although slavery was stopped in Jamaica in 1838, many people still faced unfair treatment, Mary included.

What Happened during the Crimean War?

In 1854, Russia wanted to take control of parts of Europe and so Britain declared war against them. The living accommodation for the soldiers in the battle was terrible. It was crowded and cold and there was not enough food to go around. Around 500,000 soldiers lost their lives, many to diseases such as **cholera** rather than because of the fighting itself.

Mary Seacole asked to go to the Crimea along with other nurses so that she could care for the wounded and sick. When she was refused permission, she paid for her own journey and set up a hotel close to the centre of the battle. Every day, Mary rode to collect injured men. She was even seen treating wounds on the field of the battle itself.

How Is Mary Remembered?

Mary's kindness and bravery in the Crimea were almost forgotten for many years. In 2016, a memorial statue of Mary was displayed in the grounds of a London hospital to acknowledge her achievements. The statue is thought to be the first of a named Black woman in the UK.

Glossary

cholera: A disease that affects the stomach and is often caught from infected water supplies.

Creole: A person with parents from different ethnic backgrounds.

Questions

1. Where was Mary Seacole born? Tick one.

- Jamaica
- London
- Crimea
- Scotland

2. Which country wanted to take over parts of Europe? Tick one.

- Britain
- Russia
- Jamaica
- France

3. What was it like for the soldiers in the Crimea? Tick **two**.

- hot
- crowded
- quiet
- cold

4. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they occur in the text.

- Mary Seacole asked to go to the Crimea.
- A memorial statue of Mary was displayed in the grounds of a London hospital.
- Mary Seacole was born.
- Slavery was stopped in Jamaica.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Every day, _____ rode to collect _____ men.

6. Find and copy a word which means the same as **courage**.

7. Explain why people think that Mary Seacole was a hero.

Answers

1. Where was Mary Seacole born? Tick one.

- Jamaica**
- London
- Crimea
- Scotland

2. Which country wanted to take over parts of Europe? Tick one.

- Britain
- Russia**
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3. What was it like for the soldiers in the Crimea? Tick **two**.

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- crowded**
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4. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they occur in the text.

- 3** Mary Seacole asked to go to the Crimea.
- 4** A memorial statue of Mary was displayed in the grounds of a London hospital.
- 1** Mary Seacole was born.
- 2** Slavery was stopped in Jamaica.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Every day, **Mary** rode to collect **injured** men.

6. Find and copy a word which means the same as **courage**.

bravery

7. Explain why people think that Mary Seacole was a hero.

Pupils' own responses, such as: People think that Mary Seacole is a hero because she bravely risked her life to help injured and sick soldiers in the Crimean War.

Mary Seacole

Mary Jane Seacole was born in 1805 in Kingston, Jamaica. She lived a selfless and inspiring life caring for sick and injured people around the world. She showed great bravery and determination during the Crimean War, when she nursed injured soldiers near the battlefield.



What Was Mary's Early Life Like?

Mary's father was a Scottish soldier and her mother was Jamaican. Her mother ran a hotel and worked as a healer. Due to her parents' different ethnic backgrounds, Mary described herself as **Creole**. She learnt about medicine by watching her mother work.

When Mary was born, many Black people in Jamaica were enslaved. This meant they were denied their freedom and basic human rights by being forced to work without pay. Mary's mother was a free Jamaican, meaning that she was not enslaved. However, she was still not treated as an equal by many people. Although slavery was legally stopped in Jamaica by 1838, many people still faced unfair treatment, Mary included.

What Happened during the Crimean War?

In 1854, Russia wanted to take control of parts of Europe. Britain declared war on Russia and sent over 20,000 British soldiers to the Crimea. The conditions for the soldiers were terrible. Their living accommodation was cramped and cold and there was not enough food to go around. During three years of war, around 500,000 soldiers lost their lives, many to diseases such as **cholera** rather than because of the fighting itself.

Mary Seacole asked to go to the Crimea along with other nurses so that she could care for the wounded and sick. When she was refused permission, she paid for her own journey and set up a hotel close to the centre of the battle. Every day, Mary rode to collect injured men. She was even seen treating wounds on the field of the battle itself.

Did You Know...?

Mary Seacole was often called 'Mother Seacole' by the soldiers that she looked after because of her kind and caring nature.

How Is Mary Remembered?

For many years, Mary's kindness and bravery in the Crimea were almost forgotten. In 2016, a memorial statue was unveiled of Mary in London, acknowledging her achievements. This was a particularly important moment as the statue is thought to be the first memorial statue of a named Black woman in the UK.

Glossary

cholera:	A disease that affects the stomach and is often caught from infected water supplies.
Creole:	A person with parents from different ethnic backgrounds.

Questions

1. What year was Mary Seacole born? Tick one.

- 1854
- 1836
- 1850
- 1805

2. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

However, she was still
not treated...

Mary's father was a
Scottish soldier...

In 2016, a memorial
statue was unveiled...

Their living
accommodation was
cramped and cold...

as an equal by
many people.

and there was not enough
food to go around.

and her mother
was Jamaican.

of Mary in London
to acknowledge her
achievements.

3. **Mary paid for her own journey to the Crimea.**

What does this tell you about her? Tick one.

- She liked sailing.
- She was determined to help in the Crimea.
- Mary was experienced at nursing soldiers.
- She was married to a soldier.

4. Read the section titled '**How Is Mary Remembered?**'

Which word means the same as **monument**. Tick one.

- applause
- recognition
- statue
- tribute

5. What were conditions like for the soldiers in the Crimea?

6. Look at the section titled '**How Is Mary Remembered?**'

Find and copy a phrase which shows that the unveiling of Mary's statue was special.

7. Explain why Mary Seacole set up a hotel in the Crimea using evidence from the text.

8. Summarise in 25 words or fewer why Mary Seacole is thought of as a hero.

Answers

1. What year was Mary Seacole born? Tick one.

- 1854
- 1836
- 1850
- 1805**

2. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

However, she was still not treated...	as an equal by many people.
Mary's father was a Scottish soldier...	and there was not enough food to go around.
In 2016, a memorial statue was unveiled...	and her mother was Jamaican.
Their living accommodation was cramped and cold...	of Mary in London to acknowledge her achievements.

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What does this tell you about her? Tick one.

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Find and copy a phrase which shows that the unveiling of Mary's statue was special.

This was a particularly important moment

7. Explain why Mary Seacole set up a hotel in the Crimea using evidence from the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Mary Seacole set up a hotel in the Crimea so that she could look after the soldiers because the conditions near the battle were terrible and they were getting ill.

8. Summarise in 25 words or fewer why Mary Seacole is thought of as a hero.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Mary Seacole is thought of as a hero because she bravely nursed the sick even though some people didn't treat her as an equal.

Mary Seacole

Mary Jane Seacole was born in 1805 in Kingston, Jamaica. A truly inspirational woman, she spent her life caring for sick and injured people and showed great bravery and determination when treating soldiers during the Crimean War.



What Was Mary's Early Life Like?

Mary's father was a Scottish soldier and her mother was Jamaican. Her mother ran a hotel and worked as a healer: she used her knowledge of traditional treatments to care for her patients. Due to her parents' different ethnic backgrounds, Mary described herself as **Creole**. She learnt about medicine by watching her mother work.

When Mary was born, many Black people in Jamaica were enslaved. This meant they were denied their freedom and basic human rights by being forced to work without pay. Mary's mother was a free Jamaican, meaning that she was not enslaved. However, she was still not treated in the same way as white people and was not thought to be an equal. Although slavery was **abolished** in Jamaica by 1838, many people still faced unfair treatment, Mary included.

What Happened during the Crimean War?

In 1854, Russia wanted to take control of parts of Europe. Britain declared war on Russia and sent over 20,000 British soldiers to the Crimea. Conditions for the soldiers were terrible: living accommodation was cramped and cold and there was not enough food to go around. Approximately 500,000 soldiers lost their lives during the three years of war, many to diseases such as cholera rather than because of the fighting itself.

Mary Seacole asked to go to the Crimea along with other nurses so that she could care for the wounded and sick. Frustratingly, she was not allowed to go – Mary believed this was due to **racism**. She paid for her own journey and set up a hotel close to the centre of the battle. Every day, Mary rode into the battle to collect injured soldiers. She was even seen treating wounds on the field of the battle itself.

Did You Know...?

Mary Seacole was often called 'Mother Seacole' by the soldiers that she looked after because of her kind and caring nature.

How Is Mary Remembered?

For many years, Mary's inspirational kindness and bravery in the Crimea were almost forgotten. In 2016, a memorial statue of Mary was unveiled in the grounds of a London hospital, acknowledging Mary's efforts and achievements. This was a particularly important moment as the statue is thought to be the first memorial statue of a named Black woman in the UK.

Glossary

abolished: When a system, practice or institution is formally ended.

Creole: A person with parents from different ethnic backgrounds.

racism: When people are not given respect, rights, dignity or value because of their race.

Questions

1. **Mary Seacole spent her life caring for sick and injured people.**

What does this tell you about Mary? Tick **two**.

- She was a kind person.
- She lived a long life.
- She knew about medicines.
- She travelled a lot.

2. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

Her mother ran a hotel and worked as a healer where...

Mary Seacole asked to go to the Crimea along with other nurses...

For many years, Mary's inspirational kindness...

Mary Seacole was often called...

'Mother Seacole' by the soldiers that she looked after.

and bravery in the Crimea were almost forgotten.

she used her knowledge of traditional treatments to care for her patients.

so that she could care for the wounded and sick.

3. What did Mary Seacole learn from her mother?

4. Look at the section titled '**How Is Mary Remembered?**'

Find and copy a word which means the same as **significant**.

5. Fill in the missing words.

For many years, Mary's _____ kindness and _____ in the Crimea were almost forgotten.

6. **She was even seen treating wounds on the field of battle.**

What does this tell you about Mary?

7. Think of another person that you think of as a hero. How do they compare to Mary Seacole?

8. Explain why there is a memorial statue of Mary in London.

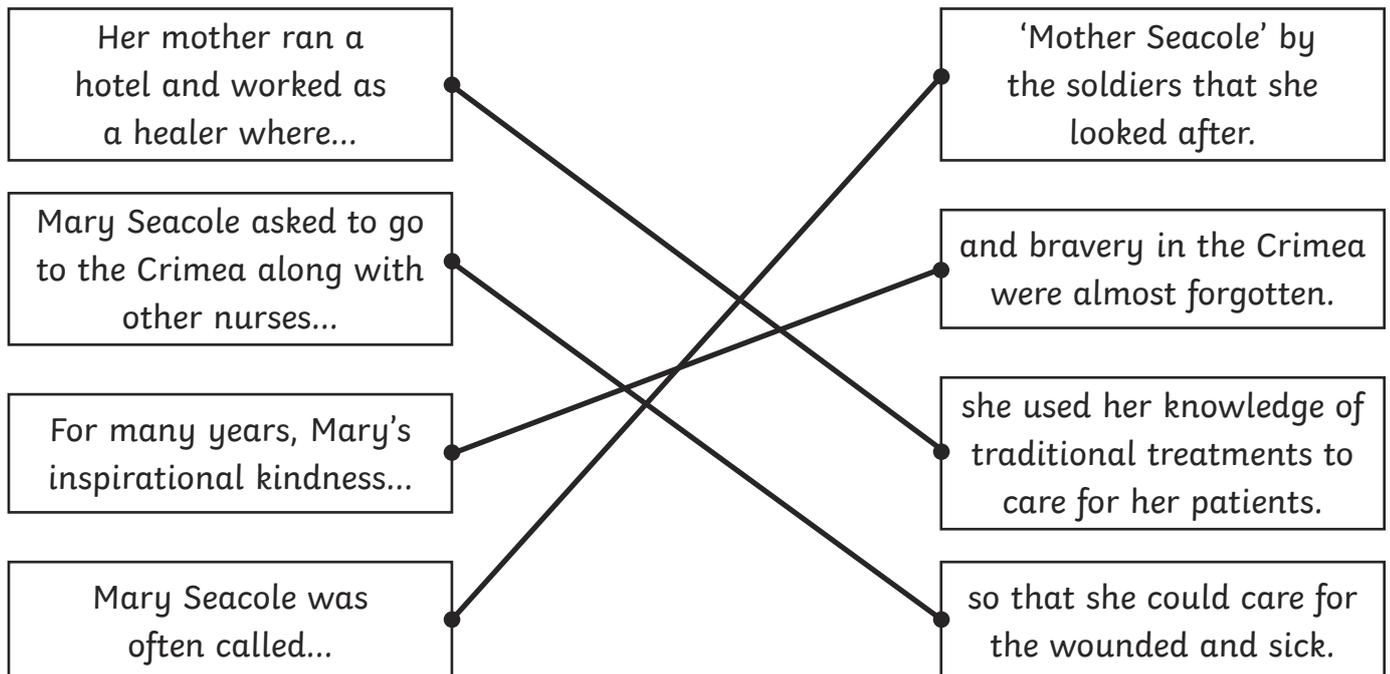
Answers

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What does this tell you about Mary? Tick **two**.

- She was a kind person.**
- She lived a long life.
- She knew about medicines.**
- She travelled a lot.

2. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.



3. What did Mary Seacole learn from her mother?

Mary learnt about medicine by watching her mother work.

4. Look at the section titled 'How Is Mary Remembered?'

Find and copy a word which means the same as **significant**.

important

5. Fill in the missing words.

For many years, Mary's **inspirational** kindness and **bravery** in the Crimea were almost forgotten.

6. **She was even seen treating wounds on the field of battle.**

What does this tell you about Mary?

Pupils' own responses, such as: This tells you that Mary was a very brave and heroic person because she went onto the battlefield even though it was very dangerous and treated the people who needed her.

7. Think of another person that you think of as a hero. How do they compare to Mary Seacole?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Sir Captain Tom Moore is a hero like Mary Seacole. They both wanted to help other people who needed care. They both experienced war, although Sir Captain Tom Moore was a soldier and Mary was a nurse.

8. Explain why there is a memorial statue of Mary in London.

Pupils' own responses, such as: There is a memorial statue of Mary in London because she did amazing things to help British soldiers during the Crimean War and people want to remember her and how special she was.