1. Birth

Edith Louisa Cavell was born in 1865 and grew up in a village called Swardeston in Norfolk, England. Her father was a vicar and her family didn’t have a lot of money. She had two sisters called Lilian and Florence and a brother called Jack.

2. Childhood

Young Edith used to enjoy picking and drawing wild flowers. Edith particularly enjoyed family picnics because she enjoyed being in nature. In winter, Edith enjoyed skating. Although she was a child who enjoyed being outside she spent a lot of time inside learning her lessons with her mother. Edith was home-schooled but she later attended the Girls’ High School in Norwich. Happily, Edith discovered she was very good at learning languages, especially French. Edith later went to another school in London.

3. First Jobs

Edith Cavell got a job as a governess teaching children in Belgium. Her ability to speak excellent French helped her. She returned to England a few years later when her father became sick. This made Edith decide to become a nurse. She worked in poor parts of London helping those who had infectious diseases. Edith moved back to Belgium in 1907 when she began to teach at a nurse training school and improve nursing.

4. War Breaks Out

In 1914 the First World War began. Germany went to war against France, Britain, Russia and later the USA. The fighting was very bad in Europe. Edith was in Belgium when the war started. She decided to stay to help. She joined the Red Cross and worked as a nurse in hospitals in Brussels.

5. War Nurse

The Germans captured Brussels and Edith had to care for wounded soldiers from both sides. The hospital was taken over by the Germans but Edith showed great courage and even took care of German soldiers. During this time some French and British soldiers were hiding from the Germans. Edith helped them to escape to Holland.

6. Death

The Germans discovered Edith was helping their enemies to escape. Edith was arrested and put in prison for several weeks. The Germans told Edith that her friends had told them what Edith had been doing and she believed them. It was not true but Edith confessed and told them she had helped the soldiers escaped. She was killed by firing squad on 12th October 1915. She said she had no hatred towards them, she was a nurse just trying to do her duty. She is buried in Norwich Cathedral and there is a statue of her in London. She is remembered for her bravery.
**Aim:** To be able to compare two nurses from the past

Read each section of the Edith Cavell biography and use a highlighter to mark key words. Make notes for each section on sticky notes. Then, write down 3 things that are similar about **Florence Nightingale** (1820-1910) and **Edith Cavell** (1865-1915).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florence Nightingale is great because:</th>
<th>Mary Seacole is great because:</th>
<th>Edith Cavell is great because:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Image of Florence Nightingale]</td>
<td>[Image of Mary Seacole]</td>
<td>[Image of Edith Cavell]</td>
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