Mary Seacole

Background

Mary Seacole was born in 1805 in Jamaica. Her mother was Jamaican. Her father came from Scotland. Mary learned to read and write. She learned from her mother how to make medicines from herbs. She pretended her doll was sick and gave her medicines.

Mary married Edwin Seacole in 1836. They opened a shop. However, Edwin died in 1844. Mary was very sad but she decided to help other people that were ill. She became a nurse. Mary helped many people.

The Crimean War

In 1853, there was a war between Russia and the United Kingdom and France. Lots of men went to fight in the war. Many of them got sick or hurt and died. The British sent nurses out to look after the men. Florence Nightingale was in charge. Mary Seacole wrote a letter to ask to be one of the nurses, but she was told 'no.'

Mary used her own money to travel to the war and to open a place for soldiers called the British Hotel. She even built it herself!

When there were battles, Mary would go and find men who were hurt and treat their wounds. The soldiers were very grateful for this. She was given medals for being so brave.

After the War

When the war ended, Mary came back to England. She had no money left. Some soldiers raised money for her to say thank you for helping them.

Questions: Answer in full sentences.

1. Where was Mary Seacole born?

_____

2. How did Mary Seacole learn about medicines?

_____

_____

3. What was Mary's husband called?

_____

4. Find two **adjectives** in the text.

_____

5. Why did the nurses go to the Crimean War?

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6. What happened when Mary asked to be a nurse in
   the Crimean War?

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7. How did Mary go to help in the war?

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8. How do we know that Mary was brave?

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9. How did the soldiers say thank you to Mary?

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10.   What **adjective** would you use to describe Mary and why?

Answers

1. Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica.
2. She learned about medicine from her mother and practised on her doll.
3. Her husband was called Edwin Seacole.
4. Any acceptable answer e.g. *brave, sad, sick*
5. The nurses went to care for the sick and injured men.
6. Mary was told she couldn't be a nurse.
7. She used her own money to go and help in the war.
8. She was given medals.
9. The soldiers raised money for her.
10. Any acceptable answer e.g. *I think Mary was very kind because she took care of sick people.*