

# Year 2 History: Significant People

## Mary Seacole

Jamaica 1805 - 1881



Mary was born in Jamaica to a Jamaican mother and a Scottish father. She was well-educated and well-travelled. Mary learned nursing skills from her mother who ran a boarding house for injured soldiers and was a doctress.

### Why is Mary Seacole remembered?

In 1853, the Crimean War began. Mary wanted to help the soldiers and help the work that Florence Nightingale had started.

- The War Office in London said Mary was not allowed to work because she was black.
- Mary paid for herself to get to the Crimea and set up a 'British Hotel' near the frontline where soldiers could rest and buy hot food, drinks and equipment.
- She used the money spent there to help treat and care for sick and wounded soldiers.
- She used her herbal remedies to treat soldiers.



Every day she rode towards the battle front to give medical support to soldiers that were injured. Mary was so caring she became known to the soldiers as 'Mother Seacole'.



### Later Life

After the war, Mary had no home and was in bad health. The British people heard of her good work and helped her. She was awarded medals and published a book about her life.

## Vocabulary

**discriminate**

- treating someone differently because of their race, skin colour, sex, gender, religion or beliefs

**gender**

- people are sorted into groups eg male, female and others

**disease**

- an illness

**herbal**

- something that is made from plants

**front line**

- the part of an army that is closest to the enemy

**doctress**

- a healer who used African and Caribbean herbal medicine and treatments

**Crimean War**

- a war between Russia and other countries, 1853-1856