

# **Nurturing Nurses**

# Edith Cavell





#### Aim

• I can explain how Edith Cavell helped soldiers

### Success Criteria

- I can tell you some of the key events in Edith Cavell's life
- I can explain how Edith Cavell's life helped soldiers
- I can express my opinion

## **Edith Cavell**

Who was Edith Cavell?

Edith was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1865 in a village in Norfolk.



Edith's father was a vicar and she learned from the Bible, and him, that it was important to help others.



Edith travelled to Belgium to become a governess, and later to Austria to learn about helping the sick. She then returned home to look after her sick father.

In 1896 Edith trained to be a nurse at the Royal London Hospital.



In 1907 Edith went back to Brussels to nurse and was asked by a doctor (who had been inspired by Florence Nightingale) to be in charge of training nurses at a special nursing school

### World War One





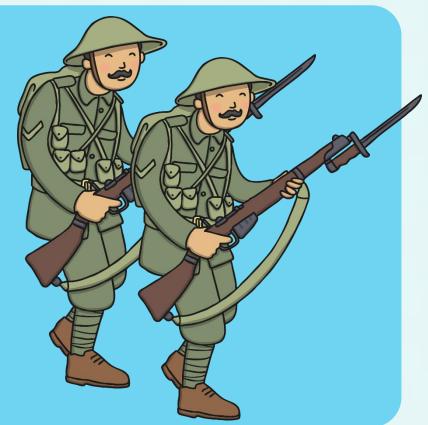
- Countries on Britain's side
- Countries on Germany's side

- World War One started in 1914.
- Britain, France and Russia were all on the same side.
- Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy were all on the same side.
- Soldiers from these countries fought one another in World War One.

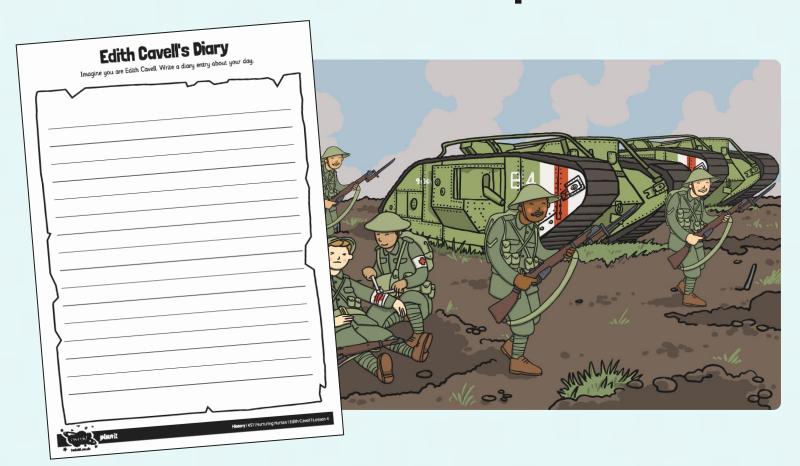
# How did Edith help the soldiers?



- In 1914, when Germany invaded Belgium, Edith returned to Brussels and found her hospital had been turned into a Red Cross Hospital.
- Edith nursed and saved the lives of soldiers from both sides at the hospital. It didn't matter which country they were fighting for.
- She also hid over 200 allied soldiers from the Germans and helped them escape from Belgium, which was occupied by Germany.



# A Day at the Red Cross Hospital



### Traitor or hero?



- In 1915 Edith was arrested, found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. Edith Cavell was killed by a German firing squad on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915.
- In World War One, Germany was Britain's enemy. Some people were cross with Edith because she treated the German soldiers.
- Lots of people thought Edith was very brave and heroic because she put her life in danger to help others.



Talk to your partner. What do you think? Why?

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