



# Can you find the key information in recount texts?

A morning work activity to practise retrieving and recording information from non-fiction texts.

Read this text carefully, then use it to answer the questions underneath.

Mary Seacole was a black nurse who made a name for herself by helping wounded and sick soldiers during the Crimean War against Russia. She was born in 1805 in Jamaica and travelled a lot as a young woman. She also learned from her mother how to care for sick and injured people.

When she heard about the suffering of the soldiers in the Crimean War, she asked the British government if she could go and help as a nurse. However, the War Office refused. Instead, Mary borrowed money to travel by herself and set up the British Hotel. There, she rented rooms to injured soldiers and sold food and equipment to the troops. Mary spent the money on caring for the wounded soldiers from both armies and was often seen treating wounds on the battlefield.

When she returned to England from the Crimea in 1856, Mary was poor and ill but the British public raised money to help her. She died in 1881.

### Questions

1. Where was Mary Seacole born?
2. Who first taught Mary how to be a nurse?
3. Why do you think Mary was poor when she came back to England?
4. How do you know that Mary Seacole didn't take sides in the war?



## Answers

Mary Seacole was a black nurse who made a name for herself by helping wounded and sick soldiers during the Crimean War against Russia. She was **born in** 1805 in **Jamaica** and travelled a lot as a young woman. She also **learned from her mother how to care for sick and injured people.**

When she heard about the suffering of the soldiers in the Crimean War, she asked the British government if she could go and help as a nurse. However, the War Office refused. Instead, Mary **borrowed money** to travel by herself and set up the British Hotel. There, she rented rooms to injured soldiers and sold food and equipment to the troops. Mary **spent the money on caring for the wounded soldiers from both armies** and was often seen treating wounds on the battlefield.

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## Questions

1. Where was Mary Seacole born? **In Jamaica.**
2. Who first taught Mary how to be a nurse? **Her mother.**
3. Why do you think Mary was poor when she came back to England?  
**Because she used it to set up the hotel and care for soldiers.**
4. How do you know that Mary Seacole didn't take sides in the war?  
**She looked after British and Russian soldiers.**

