

History of Nursing

History of Nursing – Key Points & Timeline

1. Foundations (Ancient – Middle Ages)

Period	Region / Culture	Major Contributions
c. ?3000?BCE	Ancient Egypt	“Lady of the House” – women cared for sick family members; early documentation of wound care and herbal remedies.
c. ?1500?BCE	Ancient Greece	Hippocratic texts describe “ <i>nosokomeion</i> ” (places of care) and the role of “ <i>iatros</i> ” assistants in basic patient care.
c. ?200?BCE – 400?CE	Roman Empire	Military hospitals (valetudinaria) employed “ <i>valetudinarii</i> ” – early organized caregivers who performed dressing changes and basic nursing tasks.
5th–15th? centuries	Islamic World	Hospitals (bimaristans) staffed by “ <i>?ayy?</i> ” (nurses) who administered medicines, maintained hygiene, and taught apprentices.
12th–15th? centuries	Europe (Monastic Orders)	Benedictine, Cistercian, and later the Hospitaller Order of St. ? John established infirmaries; monks and nuns provided bedside care, emphasizing compassion and spiritual support.

2. The Birth of Modern Nursing (16th – 19th Century)

Date	Event	Significance
1514	Founding of the Order of St. ? Catherine (Italy)	First organized group of women dedicated exclusively to caring for the sick.
1656	Martha Rogers (England) opens a “nursing house” for the poor.	Early example of community?based nursing.
1795	Founding of the Society of the Friends of the Poor in Paris	Provided systematic home visits; precursor to public health nursing.
1854	Florence Nightingale leads nurses during the Crimean War	Demonstrated the impact of sanitation, statistics, and organized training; earned the title “The Lady with the Lamp.”

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1860	Nightingale establishes the Nightingale Training School at St. Thomas' Hospital, London	First formal nursing education program; curriculum emphasized anatomy, physiology, hygiene, and moral discipline.
1873	Clara Barton founds the American Red Cross	Organized disaster response and created a framework for volunteer nursing in the U.S.
1885	Mary Adelaide Nutting becomes dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing	Introduced the "hospital-based" curriculum and advocated for higher education standards.
1893	Lillian Wald opens the Henry Street Settlement in NYC	Pioneered public health nursing and community outreach for immigrants.

3. Professionalization & Expansion (Early 20th Century)

Year	Milestone	Impact
1901	American Nurses Association (ANA) founded	First national professional organization for nurses; set ethical standards and advocated for licensure.
1908	International Council of Nurses (ICN) formed	Provided a global platform for nursing collaboration and policy development.
1916	U.S. Army Nurse Corps granted " <i>relative rank</i> " to its members	Recognized nursing as a vital military profession.
1923	**First B	