

The life of Mary Kingsley



Mary Kingsley was born in London in 1862. Mary's brothers went to school. She had to learn German at home to help her dad.

Later, Mary learned science. She was a good nurse when her mum and dad got sick.

After they died, she went to West Africa to learn about the people and animals there. She had a lot of respect for the people, but some British people did not. Some people wanted to make African people more like British people, and that was not fair.

Mary loved looking for animals too. One day, she fell into a trap full of spikes. Luckily she was wearing a big thick dress and it stopped her getting hurt!

Back in England, Mary wrote a book about Africa. Lots of people read it.

Mary Kingsley died in 1900. She was only 37 years old.

Questions:

1. Who looked after Mary's mum and dad when they were sick?
2. What part of Africa did Mary travel to?
3. What saved Mary when she fell?
4. How old was Mary when she died?

Challenge:

Imagine you are Mary. You really want to go to school like your brothers. Write a note to your dad to *persuade* him to let you go too.