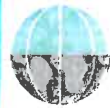


Marie Curie

Marie Curie was born in Poland and traveled to Paris in France to study chemistry, math, and physics. Curie discovered that there were different types of radioactive materials and studied how they were made. She discovered the radioactive materials polonium and radium. She was the first woman to be made a professor at the Sorbonne University, the first person to receive two Nobel Prizes, and the first to be commemorated in France's Panthéon mausoleum! Despite this, she still had to defend her discoveries to people who didn't believe her.



CONTEXT

X-rays had just been discovered when Antoine Henri Becquerel noted that uranium emits a different type of ray, charged with energy. Curie then jumped into action!

PRECIOUS METAL

A group of rich Americans gave Curie one gram of radioactive radium. However, in 1914, as France was threatened by German invasion, the government asked Curie for her radium. She refused and hid her precious treasure.

"I am among those who think that science has great beauty."

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Marie and her husband, fellow scientist Pierre Curie, had two daughters. The eldest daughter, Irène, was also a great scientist and was the first to artificially produce radioactivity.

BIOGRAPHY

BORN
1867, in Warsaw (Poland)

DIED
1934, in Passy (France)

FAMILY
mother was a headteacher, father was a professor of physics and math

FIELD
physics

PIERRE CURIE

Her husband, her greatest love and a famous physicist himself.



TWO NOBEL PRIZES

One prize, for chemistry, was shared with Curie's thesis supervisor, the other, in physics, she shared with her husband.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Curie organized a mobile X-ray ambulance during World War I. Today, the Curie Institute is dedicated to cancer research.

FAMOUS FOR
her discovery of radium and her work on radioactivity

Radioactive hero