



Tracking Important Details

A Look into Marie Curie's Life

Marie Curie was born Marie Sklodowska in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867. Her father, a teacher of math and physics, introduced Marie to the subjects when she was a child. As a young woman, she left Warsaw, and eventually settled in Paris, France. There, she studied physics and math at the Sorbonne, a well-known university. It was at the Sorbonne that she met Pierre Curie, who worked there as a professor. The two scientists married in 1895.

The Curies worked together as researchers, sharing a lab. They worked long hours teaching to make a living, spending time in the lab whenever they could. Together, they discovered two new metals. These metals were special because they were *radioactive*. That means they give off energy. Marie named the first of the metals polonium, after her native Poland. They called the second metal radium. In 1903, the Curies won the Nobel Prize for these discoveries. They shared the prize with Henri Becquerel, a scientist who helped them discover radioactivity. Marie was the first woman ever to win a Nobel Prize.

In 1906, Pierre was crossing the road when he was struck by a horse-drawn carriage, and he passed away soon after. Marie was terribly sad, but she continued her work, continuing to make new discoveries.

Marie became the first female professor ever to teach at the Sorbonne. In 1911, she was awarded a second Nobel Prize, this time in chemistry. During World War I, she created x-ray machines that could travel in trucks. The machines were driven to battlefield hospitals to help treat wounded soldiers. Marie also helped create *radiation* treatment. Radiation means using something that's radioactive. It can help treat cancer as well as infection.

Marie helped create the Curie Institute in Paris, which exists to this day. It began as a cancer treatment center, and has also become an important center for cancer research.

Directions: Track the important details of this passage by completing each section below.

Paragraph 1 **ANSWER SHEET**

<p>Reread the first paragraph.</p>	<p>What is this paragraph mostly about?</p> <p>This paragraph includes important background information about Marie Curie's life, such as where she was born, her dad's career, what she studied, and who she married.</p>
<p>Reread the second sentence of the first paragraph.</p>	<p>Underline information about Marie Curie's father. How did her father's career influence her life?</p> <p>Her dad taught math and physics and taught his daughter about these subjects at a young age.</p>

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Paragraph 1 continued

<p>Key details about Marie Curie's life.</p>	<p>Underline the sentence that tells the reader what Marie Curie studied at the Sorbonne. What did Marie study?</p> <p>Physics and math at the Sorbonne</p> <p>How does the information about what Marie studied at the university help you gain an understanding of Marie Curie's career?</p> <p>Marie understood math and science because of what she studied at her university. As a result, she discovered radioactivity.</p> <p>Underline the name of the man who Marie Curie married and the part of the text that gives you information about his job.</p>
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Paragraph 2

<p>Reread the second paragraph.</p>	<p>What is this paragraph mostly about?</p> <p>This paragraph is mainly about what the Curies discovered and the award that they won.</p>
<p>Key details about Marie Curie's discoveries.</p>	<p>Underline details that help you understand why Marie won the Nobel Prize. -List the metals she and the other scientists discovered.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u> polonium </u> <u> radium </u></p> <p>Complete the sentences with key details from the text.</p> <p>Marie was the <u> first woman </u> ever to win a Nobel Prize.</p> <p>These metals were special because they were <u> radioactive </u> .</p>

Paragraphs 3 - 5

<p>Reread the third paragraph.</p>	<p>What tragic event happened in Marie's life?</p> <p>Marie's husband, Pierre, died because he was hit by a horse-drawn carriage.</p>
<p>Marie Curie's incredible impact in the world of science and medicine.</p>	<p>Underline the details that inform the reader about the ways in which Marie Curie positively impacted our world.</p> <p>Responses will vary.</p> <p>Review all of the details that you underlined in this passage. On the back of this page, write a short summary (3 to 4 sentences) about the discoveries and accomplishments that Marie Curie is known for.</p>