



Marie Skłodowska-Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland, on November 7, 1867. She was one of the first woman scientists to win worldwide fame, and one of the great scientists of the last century. She was married to Pierre Curie with whom she had two daughters. She had degrees in mathematics and physics. She was the winner of two Nobel Prizes, for Physics in 1903 and for Chemistry in 1911, she discovered two radioactive elements: radium and polonium (named after Poland) and worked to help us understand radioactivity. Perhaps the most famous of all women scientists ever.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie was a versatile woman, and she made the all-male scientific society acknowledge her genius.

- She was the first to use the term radioactivity for this phenomenon.
- She was the first woman in Europe to receive her doctorate of science.
- In 1903, she became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize for Physics. The award, jointly awarded to Curie, her husband Pierre, and Henri Becquerel, was for the discovery of radioactivity.
- She was also the first female lecturer, professor and head of Laboratory at the Sorbonne University in Paris (1906).
- In 1911, she won an unprecedented second Nobel Prize (this time in chemistry) for her discovery and isolation of pure radium and radium components. She was the first person ever to receive two Nobel Prizes.
- She was the first mother-Nobel Prize Laureate of daughter-Nobel Prize Laureate. Her oldest daughter Irene Joliot-Curie also won a Nobel Prize for Chemistry (1935).
- She is the first woman which has been laid to rest under the famous dome of the Pantheon in Paris for her own merits.
- Under her direction, the world's first studies were conducted into the treatment of neoplasm, using radioactive isotopes.
- She was the first woman to fit ambulances with portable x-ray equipment for medical purposes during WW I, and she was the first woman to drive such vehicles to the front lines.
- She received 15 gold medals, 19 degrees, and other honors.

Marie Curie died of pernicious anemia, also most likely an effect of the radioactivity in her work. Although she was a loyal French citizen, Skłodowska-Curie never lost her sense of Polish identity and her nationality.

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