

Grade 6

Reading Biography

Title: The Life and Achievements of Marie Curie

Marie Curie: A Pioneer in Science

Marie Curie was an eminent personality in the field of science who made groundbreaking discoveries that continue to shape our world today. Born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867, she was a brilliant physicist and chemist known for her pioneering research on radioactivity. This biography will take you on a journey through the life and achievements of this remarkable woman.

Early Life:

Marie Curie, originally named Maria Skłodowska, came from a modest background. Her thirst for knowledge and passion for science were evident from a young age. Despite facing financial difficulties, she excelled in her studies and graduated at the top of her class from the Sorbonne University in Paris, France.

Scientific Breakthroughs:

Marie Curie's most famous work centered around radioactivity. In 1903, she became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize when she, along with her husband Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel, received the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work on radioactivity. She later won another Nobel Prize, this time in Chemistry, in 1911 for her discovery of radium and polonium, two radioactive elements.

Contributions to Medicine:

Marie Curie's discoveries had a profound impact on the field of medicine. During World War I, she created mobile radiography units known as "Petites Curies" to provide X-rays to field hospitals, aiding doctors in diagnosing injuries and saving countless lives. Her pioneering work in radiology revolutionized medical diagnosis and treatment.

Challenges Faced:

Despite her remarkable achievements, Marie Curie faced numerous challenges, including gender discrimination in the male-dominated scientific community. She persevered, demonstrating that women could excel in science and contribute significantly to the world of research.

Legacy:

Marie Curie's legacy lives on through her scientific contributions and the Marie Curie Foundation, which supports scientific research and education. Her life story continues to inspire young scientists and women worldwide to pursue their passion for science and overcome obstacles.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Where was Marie Curie born?

- a) Paris, France
- b) Warsaw, Poland
- c) London, England
- d) Berlin, Germany

2. What did Marie Curie win her first Nobel Prize in?

- a) Chemistry
- b) Literature
- c) Physics
- d) Medicine

3. In which field did Marie Curie make her most famous discoveries?

- a) Mathematics
- b) Chemistry
- c) Biology
- d) Geology

4. What did Marie Curie create during World War I to aid in medical diagnosis?

- a) Televisions
- b) Mobile radiography units
- c) Cell phones
- d) Microscopes

5. What legacy did Marie Curie leave behind?

- a) A famous clothing line
- b) A line of cosmetics
- c) A foundation supporting scientific research and education
- d) A chain of restaurants

Answers and Explanations:

1. b Warsaw, Poland

2. c Physics

Marie Curie won her first Nobel Prize in Physics.

3. b Chemistry

Marie Curie's most famous discoveries were in the field of Chemistry.

4. b Mobile radiography units.

Marie Curie created mobile radiography units to aid in medical diagnosis during World War I.

5. c A foundation supporting scientific research and education

Explanation: Marie Curie's legacy includes a foundation supporting scientific research and education.