Marie Curie

Marie Curie was a Polish scientist who worked in France. As a woman, it was difficult for her to get the education she wanted, but she became the most famous female scientist of all time.

Early life

She was born Maria Skoldowska, in Warsaw, **on November 7, 1867**. She was a very bright child, but **at that time**, **(1)** b . **In 1891**, she went to Paris to study physics at the Sorbonne University. She met Pierre Curie there, a Professor of Physics. **(2)** .

Nobel success

Pierre and Marie worked together on the new science of 'radioactivity' (a word which Marie invented). **Between 1898 and 1902**, **(3)** , polonium and radium. They received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903. **At first**, the prize was for Pierre only, but he asked that Marie receive it, too. Pierre gave their presentation when they received the prize in Sweden – **(4)** .

Another prize

Pierre died in a road accident in April 1906. **One month later**, Marie became the first woman to teach at the Sorbonne. **After five years** of teaching and doing research, she received a second Nobel Prize, for Chemistry, in 1911. Marie was the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize, **(5)** .

Final years

Curie's work made the use of X-rays possible, and **during the First World War**, **(6)** . **A few years later**, Marie began to have problems with her health. **Then**, the doctors discovered that she had leukaemia. It was from all the radioactivity she received in her work, but **(7)** . **Finally**, she died on July 4, 1934.

"There is nothing to fear in life. That's the only thing you need to understand." Marie Curie

D000918