

Marie Curie

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Introduction

Marie Curie was a Polish scientist who won many awards for her hard work. She had two children and two grandchildren one of which is a nuclear physicist. Marie worked very hard for everything she had , that will be shown in this slideshow .

Early Life

Marie Curie formerly known as Maria Skłodowska was born in Warsaw, Poland, on November 7th 1867. At a very young age Marie suffered her sister Sophia's death due to typhus and four years later her mother's death. Marie's Father was the Polish scientist and teacher Władysław Skłodowski and Marie's mother was the head of the most prestigious boarding school Bronisława Skłodowska. Helena Skłodowska, Zofia Skłodowska, Bronisława Dłuska and Józef Skłodowski are all Marie's siblings .

Family Life

Marie grew up in a lower class family of eight, she was the youngest of five siblings. Her parents valued that their daughters get just as good of an education as their sons did. Marie's family nicknamed her Manya which means star of the sea.

Education

She received a general education from local schools and little scientific training from her father. She was notable for her incredible work ethic, sometimes going without food and sleep for her studies. After high school, Marie suffered from a mental breakdown for a year. Since she was female, she was not allowed admission into any Russian or Polish universities so she worked as a governess for several years.



Skłodowska/Slodowski family photo

Why I Chose Marie Curie ?

Marie Curie is an inspiring woman who has accomplished so much in the sixty-six years she lived. I chose to do my project on a woman who escaped a war torn country which denied her a better education and went on to win two Nobel prizes in physics which is more than anyone else .

1891 Paris, France

Maria became Marie when she enrolled at Sorbonne in fall 1891. At first she lived in the home of her sister and her husband, however, their house was an hour's commute by horse-drawn bus from the university, and Marie resented the lost time, not to mention the money wasted on carfare.

After starting at Sorbonne university Marie found herself struggling, due to her knowledge of French not being equal to that of her peers. Marie worked very hard to catch up. In the end it was worth it as she finished her masters degree physics course summer of 1893 and math the following year. Lack of money had stood in the way of her receiving the math degree, but senior French scientists saw her abilities and pulled some strings. She was awarded a scholarship. Before completing the math degree she was also commissioned by the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry to do a study, relating magnetic properties of different steels to their chemical composition. She needed to find a lab where she could do the work.

Marie met her husband when she was in need of a lab to work in and a mutual acquaintance of hers and Pierre's suggested she work in Pierre's lab. In a civil ceremony in July 1895, they became husband and wife. Neither wanted a religious service. Marie had lost her faith when her devout Roman Catholic mother died, and Pierre was the son of non-practicing Protestant family. Pierre and Marie didn't exchange rings. Instead of a bridal gown Marie wore a dark blue outfit.



Marie and Pierre
Curie working hard

Achievements

- At the age of 33 in 1903 Marie won her first Nobel Prize with her husband.
- After that but in the same year Marie and Pierre won the Davy Medal.
- In 1904 she won the Matteucci Medal with her husband Pierre.
- Just a year after Pierre died in 1906 Marie was awarded the Actonian prize {1907}.
- Something 'shocking' happened in 1909 , Marie won the Elliott Cresson Medal.
- Marie then won the Albert Medal in 1910 .
- 1911 was a shocking year, Marie Curie became the first woman to win a Nobel on her own and the first person to win 2 Nobel Prizes.
- In the year 1921 Marie won 3 awards The Benjamin Franklin Award, The Willard Gibbs award and The John Scott Legacy Medal and Premium.



Miss Curie working on winning her second Nobel.

Did you know ?

- Ms Curie was the first female professor at Sorbonne.
- Marie is currently buried at the Pantheon in Paris.
- Pierre and Marie were both buried twice.
- Madam Curie was a single mother of two
- She named one of the elements she founded {polonium} after her native country Poland.

Timeline

In 1867
Marie Curie
was born

In 1878 her
mother died
from
tuberculosis

She moved from
Poland to France
in 1891

Marie won her
first Nobel Prize
in 1911

In 1875
Marie's
sister died
from
typhus

Marie
developed a
great interest
in science

She met her
husband in 1894

She died in 1933
after winning
many prizes and
awards

3 Questions

1. While living in Poland did you have a favourite place to go ?
2. How did it feel to win two Nobel Prizes ?
3. When you were younger would you have ever thought you would be a physicist ?

Death

On 4 July 1934, at the Sancellemoz Sanatorium (Passy France) at the age of 66, Marie Curie died. Her cause of death was given as leukaemia, due to years of exposure to radiation through her work. She was initially buried in Sceaux with Pierre and her in laws ,she and Pierre where then reburied in the Pantheon .

References

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