

# MARIE CURIE

[http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/m/marie\\_curie.html](http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/m/marie_curie.html)

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## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Marie Curie was born in 1867. She is one of the greatest scientists ever to have lived. She was a pioneer in the field of radioactivity and discovered the chemical elements radium and polonium. Curie is the only person ever to win two Nobel Prizes in two different sciences. Other achievements include being the first female professor at the University of Paris.

Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland. Her father was a maths and physics teacher and was a big influence on Marie's early education. From an early age Marie was an exceptional student with an amazing memory. She often went without food and sleep to study. Her brilliant mind led her to Paris to study and conduct her research.

She met her future husband Pierre Curie at the university. He considered Marie to be a genius and instantly wanted to work with her. They got married and spent most of their time together in their laboratory studying radioactive materials. Their research led to the discovery of radium, for which they were honoured with the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903.

Pierre was killed in 1906 and Marie was devastated and extremely lonely. She threw herself even deeper into her work and won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911. She spent the 1920s raising funds for more research into radium. In 1934 she died from a condition caused by decades of exposure to radiation. No one knew how deadly radium was until years later.

245 words  
Flesch Kinkaid 9.0

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

*Paragraphs 1 and 2*

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. pioneer      | a. role model    |
| 2. field        | b. groundbreaker |
| 3. achievements | c. carry out     |
| 4. influence    | d. outstanding   |
| 5. exceptional  | e. successes     |
| 6. conduct      | f. area          |

*Paragraphs 3 and 4*

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 7. genius      | g. lethal        |
| 8. instantly   | h. crushed       |
| 9. discovery   | i. gifted person |
| 10. devastated | j. money         |
| 11. funds      | k. immediately   |
| 12. deadly     | l. finding       |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. one of the greatest scientists          | a. materials                    |
| 2. She was a pioneer in the field          | b. to Paris to study            |
| 3. Marie was an exceptional                | c. food and sleep to study      |
| 4. She often went without                  | d. of exposure to radiation     |
| 5. Her brilliant mind led her              | e. of radioactivity             |
| 6. He considered Marie                     | f. ever to have lived           |
| 7. radioactive                             | g. radium was until years later |
| 8. She threw herself even                  | h. to be a genius               |
| 9. died from a condition caused by decades | i. student                      |
| 10. No one knew how deadly                 | j. deeper into her work         |

**LISTENING GAP FILL:**

Marie Curie was born in 1867. She \_\_\_\_\_ greatest scientists ever to have lived. She was a pioneer \_\_\_\_\_ radioactivity and discovered the chemical elements radium and polonium. Curie is the only person \_\_\_\_\_ Nobel Prizes in two different sciences. Other achievements include \_\_\_\_\_ female professor at the University of Paris.

Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland. Her father was a maths and physics teacher \_\_\_\_\_ influence on Marie's early education. From \_\_\_\_\_ Marie was an exceptional student with an amazing memory. She often went without food \_\_\_\_\_. Her brilliant mind led her to Paris \_\_\_\_\_ conduct her research.

She \_\_\_\_\_ husband Pierre Curie at the university. He considered Marie to be a genius and instantly wanted \_\_\_\_\_. They got married and spent \_\_\_\_\_ time together in their laboratory studying radioactive materials. Their research led to the discovery of radium, \_\_\_\_\_ were honoured with the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903.

Pierre was killed in 1906 and Marie was devastated \_\_\_\_\_ lonely. She threw herself \_\_\_\_\_ her work and won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911. She spent the 1920s raising \_\_\_\_\_ research into radium. In 1934 she died from a condition caused by decades of exposure to radiation. No one \_\_\_\_\_ radium was until years later.

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Marie Curie was born in 1867. She is one of the greatest *science / scientists* ever to have lived. She was a pioneer *in / on* the field of radioactivity and discovered the chemical elements radium and polonium. Curie is the only person ever to *win / won* two Nobel Prizes in two different sciences. Other achievements include *was / being* the first female professor at the University of Paris.

Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland. Her father was a maths and physics teacher and was a *big / tall* influence on Marie's early education. From an early *old / age* Marie was an exceptional student with an amazing *memories / memory*. She often went without food and sleep to study. Her brilliant mind led her to Paris to study and *conduct / conductor* her research.

She met her future husband Pierre Curie at the university. He considered Marie to be a *genie / genius* and instantly wanted to work with her. They got married and *spent / spending* most of their time together in their *laboratory / lavatory* studying radioactive materials. Their research led to the discovery of radium, for *which / who* they were honoured with the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903.

Pierre was killed in 1906 and Marie was devastated and extremely *lone / lonely*. She threw herself even *deepest / deeper* into her work and won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911. She spent the 1920s raising *finds / funds* for more research into radium. In 1934 she died from a condition caused by decades of exposure to radiation. No one knew how *deadly / dead* radium was until years later.

## SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

### *Paragraph 1*

1. one of the greatest tinictssse
2. She was a reinoep in the field of radioactivity
3. discovered the lcechmia elements radium and polonium
4. the first female serorpfos

### *Paragraph 2*

5. iysphsc teacher
6. a big nefulcien on Marie's early education
7. an amazing emomry
8. Her ibllitrna mind

### *Paragraph 3*

9. her ufreut husband
10. He considered Marie to be a enusig
11. studying radioactive mritsaela
12. Their research led to the vdsyrieco of radium

### *Paragraph 4*

13. extremely lneoyl
14. She wethr herself even deeper into her work
15. niarigs funds for more research
16. No one knew how dydela radium was

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) memory. She often went without food and sleep to study. Her brilliant mind led her to Paris to study and conduct her research.
- ( ) deeper into her work and won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911. She spent the 1920s raising
- ( ) to win two Nobel Prizes in two different sciences. Other achievements
- ( ) funds for more research into radium. In 1934 she died from a condition caused by decades of
- ( ) genius and instantly wanted to work with her. They got married and spent most of their time together in their
- ( ) influence on Marie's early education. From an early age Marie was an exceptional student with an amazing
- ( ) She met her future husband Pierre Curie at the university. He considered Marie to be a
- ( ) laboratory studying radioactive materials. Their research led to the discovery of
- ( **1** ) Marie Curie was born in 1867. She is one of the greatest scientists ever to have lived. She was a pioneer
- ( ) exposure to radiation. No one knew how deadly radium was until years later.
- ( ) radium, for which they were honoured with the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903.
- ( ) Pierre was killed in 1906 and Marie was devastated and extremely lonely. She threw herself even
- ( ) in the field of radioactivity and discovered the chemical elements radium and polonium. Curie is the only person ever
- ( ) include being the first female professor at the University of Paris.
- ( ) Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland. Her father was a maths and physics teacher and was a big

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. a of pioneer radioactivity in She the was field

---

2. professor Paris at the the first University female of

---

3. early a influence Marie's education big on

---

4. student Marie with was an an amazing exceptional memory

---

5. study food She and often sleep went to without

---

6. Marie be genius considered to a He

---

7. time spent together most in of their their laboratory

---

8. her into deeper even herself threw She work

---

9. caused to by radiation decades a of condition exposure

---

10. knew deadly was one how radium No

---



## MARIE CURIE DISCUSSION:

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Marie Curie?
2. Would you like to have met Marie Curie?
3. What would you like to know about Marie Curie and why?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## MARIE CURIE DISCUSSION:

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Marie Curie?
2. What questions would you like to have asked Marie Curie?
3. What would her answers have been to those questions?
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## MARIE CURIE SURVEY:

Write five questions about Marie Curie in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Marie Curie. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MARIE CURIE POSTER:** Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Marie Curie. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Marie Curie. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she did every day and what she thought about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Marie Curie. Ask her three questions about her life. Tell her how important she is in today's world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Marie Curie expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. pioneer      | a. groundbreaker |
| 2. field        | b. area          |
| 3. achievements | c. successes     |
| 4. influence    | d. role model    |
| 5. exceptional  | e. outstanding   |
| 6. conduct      | f. carry out     |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 7. genius      | g. gifted person |
| 8. instantly   | h. immediately   |
| 9. discovery   | i. finding       |
| 10. devastated | j. crushed       |
| 11. funds      | k. money         |
| 12. deadly     | l. lethal        |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. one of the greatest scientists          | a. ever to have lived           |
| 2. She was a pioneer in the field          | b. of radioactivity             |
| 3. Marie was an exceptional                | c. student                      |
| 4. She often went without                  | d. food and sleep to study      |
| 5. Her brilliant mind led her              | e. to Paris to study            |
| 6. He considered Marie                     | f. to be a genius               |
| 7. radioactive                             | g. materials                    |
| 8. She threw herself even                  | h. deeper into her work         |
| 9. died from a condition caused by decades | i. of exposure to radiation     |
| 10. No one knew how deadly                 | j. radium was until years later |

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.