

Marie Curie 1867-1934

Marie was born in Poland in 1867. Her name at birth was Maria Skłodowska.

When Marie lived in Poland girls were not allowed to go to university, so her parents had to send her in secret.

She later studied physics and maths in Paris.

In 1895, Marie married another scientist called Pierre Curie. Together they worked on the theory of 'radioactivity', a word that she created.

In 1895 Marie and Pierre discovered that a metal called radium could kill **cancer cells**.

She was the first woman to become a **Professor** at the University of Paris.

She was the first woman to win the important **Nobel Prize**. She won two in her lifetime.

In World War One, she helped put **x-ray machines** in ambulances. This helped doctors see where bullets were in the body of a soldier.



Did you know?

- Marie named the first chemical element she discovered 'polonium' after her home country Poland.
- Marie and Pierre did most of their work in a leaky shed!
- Her notebooks are still too dangerous to touch. You need to wear special clothes because of radioactivity.
- Marie's daughter, Irene, also became a famous scientist and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.