

# Marie Curie

Marie Curie is a famous scientist who is most famous for discovering two new **radioactive** elements. During the First World War, Marie Curie invented an incredible machine which is estimated to have helped over one million soldiers.



## Early Life

Marie Curie was born in Poland on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1867. Marie's parents were both teachers and her father would often teach her science at home.



When she grew older, Marie wanted to go to university and learn all about physics (an area of science). Unfortunately, at the time women were not allowed to study in Poland. This meant that Marie had to move to France where she was allowed to go to university.

## Did You Know...?



Marie Curie's blue laboratory clothes were actually the same outfit she wore when she got married!



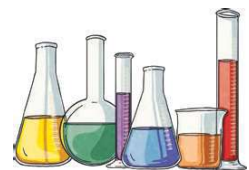
The materials that Marie Curie worked with were so dangerous that you can't even look at her cookbook today without wearing a full protective suit.

## Important Work

After she had learnt all about physics at university, Marie worked in a laboratory with her husband, Pierre Curie. During this time, Marie made an incredible breakthrough and discovered two new radioactive elements which had never been seen before.



Because of her amazing discoveries and work in science, Marie Curie became the first woman ever to win a Nobel Prize (a prize awarded for outstanding work). A few years later, Marie went on to win a second Nobel Prize which made her the first person ever to win two Nobel Prizes!



## Marie and the War

When the First World War started, Marie Curie knew she had to do something to help. Marie had realised that injured soldiers recovered better if they were treated quickly. Putting her knowledge and understanding of **radiation** to good use, Marie decided to invent a machine which could help wounded soldiers close to the battlefields.



With this in mind, Marie taught herself **anatomy** and **mechanics** and set off to create mobile x-ray machines which could be used on the front line. Marie Curie's daughter, Irene, helped her and together they were able to install 20 mobile x-ray vehicles and 200 x-ray units at field hospitals during the first year of the First World War. These incredible machines were named 'Petites Curies' after the amazing lady who created them.



### Legacy

Although she was born over 150 years ago, Marie Curie's work is still incredibly well-known. Some treatments being used in hospitals today started out as inventions in her laboratory.

In recognition of the incredible work she carried out, the name 'Marie Curie' can be found in many different places. For example, in 2007, the 'Pierre et Marie Curie' station in France opened up, named after Marie and her husband. There is even an asteroid named the 7000 Curie!

### Glossary

- anatomy:** The makeup of living things.
- mechanics:** The study of machines.
- radiation:** Waves that enter the human body.
- radioactive:** Giving off radiation.

