Pierre Curie was born in Paris, where his father was a general medical practitioner, on May 15, 1859. He received his early education at home before entering the Faculty of Sciences at the Sorbornne. He gained his Licentiateship in Physics in 1878 and continued as a demonstrator in the physics laboratory until 1882 when he was placed in charge of all practical work in the Physics and Industrial Chemistry Schools. In 1895 he obtained his Doctor of Science degree and was appointed Professor of Physics. He was promoted to Professor in the Faculty of Sciences in 1900. He advanced theories of symmetry with regard to certain physical phenomena and turned his attention to magnetism. He showed that the magnetic properties of a given substance change at a certain temperature – this temperature is now known as the Curie point. Curie's studies of radioactive substances were made together with his wife, whom he married in 1895. They were achieved under conditions of much hardship barely adequate laboratory facilities and under the stress of having to do much teaching in order to earn their living. They announced the discovery of Radium and Polonium in 1898 and later they did much to clarify the properties of radium and its transformation products. Their work in this era formed the basic for much of the important research in nuclear physics and chemistry. Together they were awarded half of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903 on account of their study into the radiation discovered by Becquerel, who was awarded the other half of the Prize. In 1905 he was elected to the Academy of Sciences.

Pierre was killed in a street accident in Paris on April 19, 1906.

1. Pierre received his first schooling _____.

a. at the Faculty of Sciences at the Sorbonne
b. at home
c. at the physics laboratory
d. at the Physics and Industrial Chemistry Schools.

2. Pierre used not to be _____.

a. an inventor
b. a professor in the Faculty of Sciences
c. a medical practitioner
d. a demonstrator in the physics laboratory

3. Pierre's life was _____.

a. wealthy
b. too poor
c. hard-working
d. adventurous

4. Which sentence is NOT true?

a. Pierre did not share his research with his wife.
b. Pierre did research on both physics and chemistry
c. Pierre was a Doctor of Science
d. Pierre was a member of the Academy of Sciences

5. Pierre earned his living by _____.

a. doing research
b. producing radioactive substances
c. teaching
d. producing nuclear power

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