A French physicist, Henri Becquerel discovered that a metal called uranium gave off a kind of radiation, which later Marie Curie called radioactivity. But where did this radiation come from and what was it like? She made experiments to discover that secret of nature. There was failure, success, more failure, a little success, a little more suc cess. Marie wrote: "Life is not easy for any of us. We must work, and above all we must believe in ourselves".

At this time her husband Pierre Curie left his own successful labo ratory work and joined her in the search of this unknown radiation. In 1898 they declared that there was something in nature, still unseen, which gave out radioactivity and was named radium. The scientists of those days were very polite to them, but still their common thought was: "Show us some radium, and we will believe you".

And the Curies tried to do their best to reach success. Though they had four difficult years in the work, that period was the happiest in their lives. One evening in 1902 they came into their laboratory again and saw faint blue light in the glass testtubes on the tables, which was so hard to find: Radium.

1. Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity.
2. The discovery of radium was not an easy thing for Marie Curie.
3. Pierre Curie decided not to work with his wife because he couldn't do anything in science by himself.
4. The name 'radium' appeared in 1898.
5. The Curies decided to show other scientists some radium, but they didn't believe them.
6 The period of "radium work" was the happiest part of the Curies' life. Task 3 Read the text below.

LIVEWORKSHEETS