



READING ■ A biography

1 ★ Read the text. The writer wrote this text to ...
a thank. b inform. c invite.

Famous scientists: The life of Marie Curie

A Marie Skłodowska was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867. She was one of five children. Marie's nickname as a child was 'Manya'. Her parents were both school teachers, but they were poor.

B Marie was a very clever child, but in Poland at that time girls didn't study at university. Her sister, Bronya, lived in Paris, so Marie moved there too. She started at the Sorbonne University and studied physics and mathematics.

C At the Sorbonne University, Marie worked with the scientist Pierre Curie. They married in 1895 and she changed her surname from Skłodowska to Curie. Marie and Pierre discovered the element radium in 1898.

D Pierre Curie died in 1906. Marie started teaching at the university. She was the first woman professor at the Sorbonne. She was also the first person to win two Nobel prizes.

E In the 1930s Marie was very ill because she worked with radioactive radium. She died in 1934.

2 ★★ Read the text again. Match topics 1–4 with paragraphs A–E.

The work of Marie and Pierre Curie. C

1 The early years.
2 The end of her life.
3 Teaching at the Sorbonne.
4 A new life in Paris.

3 ★★ Read the text again. Are the sentences true or false?

Marie's family was poor when she was a child. True

1 Marie's father was an inventor and her mother was a writer.
2 Marie's sister, Bronya, lived in Warsaw.
3 Marie studied mathematics and physics at the Sorbonne University.
4 In 1895, Marie discovered radium.
5 Marie's sister Bronya died in Warsaw in 1906.
6 Marie was ill in the 1930s.



4 ★★★ Answer the questions. Write complete sentences.

When and where was Marie Curie born?

Marie Curie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland.

1 What job did her parents do?

2 When did Marie change her surname?

3 What did she and her husband discover?

4 What did Marie do after her husband died?

5 Why was she ill?

6 When did she die?

Build your vocabulary

5 ★★ Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

brand name middle name first name
nickname surname

1 When she was a child, Marie's nickname was Manya.
2 Marie's husband's was Pierre and his was Curie.
3 Marie and Pierre Curie discovered radium. But radium isn't a like Armani.
4 Marie had three names – Marie Salomea Curie. Salomea was her .