

The genius of Marie Curie

Marie Sklodowska **was born** in Warsaw, Poland, **in 1867**. Her name was Maria Sklodowska. She was a very good student, **but** life was difficult for her. At that time, women could not study at university in Poland. Marie wanted to learn, so she studied at a secret school called the Flying University. She also worked as a tutor to save money and, later, move to Paris.

In Paris, Marie studied Physics and Mathematics at the Sorbonne. Life was not easy. She did not have much money, she often ate only bread and drank tea. There, she met a scientist called Pierre Curie. They worked together and soon got married. They became a great scientific team.

In 1896, a scientist called Henri Becquerel discovered that uranium produced a special type of energy called radiation. Marie became very interested in this, and started studying it. Marie made important discoveries. One of them was that another element, called thorium, also produced radiation. In 1898, they discovered polonium and radium. She named polonium after Poland, her home country.

In 1903, Marie Curie, Pierre Curie, and Henri Becquerel won the Nobel Prize in Physics. Marie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. In 1906, Pierre Curie died in an accident. Marie was very sad, but she continued her scientific work. She became the first woman professor at the Sorbonne. In 1911, Marie won another Nobel Prize, this time in Chemistry. She was the first person to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific areas.

During the First World War, Marie helped doctors. She used X-rays to help doctors see inside patients' bodies and treat injured soldiers. Marie Curie died in 1934. She worked with radiation for many years, and this probably made her very ill.

Marie Curie was an important scientist. Her work changed science and medicine. She discovered new elements and helped people understand radiation better. Today, people still remember her as one of the most important scientists in history.



Picture from cottonbro studio Pexels:
<https://www.pexels.com/es-es/foto/mujer-vaso-cristal-vidrio-8666813/>

ADAPTED AND TAKEN FROM: [The genius of Marie Curie - Shohini Ghose | TED-Ed](#)

• READ THE TEXT AND MARK TRUE OR FALSE FOR THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

- a. ☐ Maria Sklodowska was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867.
- b. ☐ Marie studied at a secret school called the Flying University.
- c. ☐ Marie moved to London to study Physics and Mathematics.
- d. ☐ Marie often ate only bread and drank tea because she did not have much money.
- e. ☐ Marie and Pierre Curie discovered polonium and radium in 1998.
- f. ☐ Marie Curie won her first Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1903.
- g. ☐ During the First World War, Marie used X-rays to help doctors treat injured soldiers.

• JUSTIFY THE FALSE ONES.

• **READING COMPREHENSION- Think deeper**

- Why did Marie work as a tutor?
- Why was life difficult for Marie when she was young?
- How do you think Marie felt when she won the Nobel Prize?
- Why was Marie's work important for science and medicine?
- What values can we learn from Marie Curie's life?

• **READ THE STORY AGAIN AND LIST THE VERBS AND TIME MAKERS FOR THE PAST**

VERBS IN THE PAST	TIME MARKERS IN THE PAST	CONJUNCTIONS
<i>was born</i>	<i>In 1867</i>	<i>but</i>

• **CLASSIFY THE VERBS IN THE PAST INTO:**

REGULAR (-ed)	IRREGULAR

• **READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT AMELIA EARHART, CHANGE THE VERBS IN BRACKETS INTO THE CORRECT FORM:**

- Amelia Earhart _____ **(be)** a famous American pilot. She _____ **(be)** born in Kansas, USA, in 1897.
- When she is a young girl, Amelia _____ **(love)** adventure and _____ **(enjoy)** new experiences. She _____ **(study)** at different schools and later _____ **(work)** as a nurse.
- In 1920, Amelia _____ **(take)** her first flight in an airplane. She _____ **(love)** flying and _____ **(decide)** to become a pilot.
- In 1928, she _____ **(fly)** across the Atlantic Ocean. She _____ **(become)** the first woman to fly across the Atlantic as a passenger.
- In 1932, Amelia _____ **(fly)** across the Atlantic alone. She _____ **(become)** a famous pilot and _____ **(win)** many awards.
- In 1937, Amelia _____ **(start)** a trip around the world. During the trip, her plane _____ **(disappear)** over the Pacific Ocean. She _____ **(be)** never found.
- Amelia Earhart _____ **(be)** a brave and important woman. She _____ **(inspire)** many people to follow their dreams.



Figure 1. Amelia Earhart standing beside her aircraft. Image generated using Gemini, August 2026.