

First Female Nobel Prize Winner Worldwide

Marie Curie

[7 November 1867 - 4 July 1934]



Special Scientific Achievements

Marie Curie discovered the radioactivity of the element *thorium*. Discovery of the elements *polonium* and *radium*, together with her husband. She explored the physical, chemical, and biological effects of radiation and constituted the radio-chemistry. Furthermore she worked in the field of medical x-ray.

1903 Nobel Prize in Physics, together with her husband and A. H. Becquerel.

1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, for the isolation of pure *radium*.

1867 Marie Curie née Maria Skłodowska, is born in Warsaw on November 11.

1883 Marie receives a general education, passing with distinction. She works as governess until 1891.

1891 Marie follows her sister to Paris. Marie studies mathematics and physics at the *Sorbonne*.

1893/94 She graduates, and is awarded first place in physics and second place in mathematics.

1895 Marie marries the physicist Pièrre Curie. Both work under difficult conditions in an improvisational laboratory. They discover the radioactivity of uranium and name the radioactive fractions radium and polonium.

1897 Birth of their daughter Irène.

1898 Marie Curie discovers the radioactivity of the element thorium.

1900 She teaches physics at a training institution for women and introduces a teaching method based on experimental demonstrations.

1903 Marie obtains her doctorate in physics. For the discovery of radium, Marie and Pierre win a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903, which they share with their friend A. Henri Becquerel.

1904 Birth of their daughter Ève.

1906 Accidental death of Pièrre Curie. After her husband has died, Marie is offered and takes the position of director of the Physics Laboratory, the first woman to teach at the *Sorbonne*.



1911 Marie Curie is awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, for the isolation of pure radium.

1914 She is appointed director of the Radium Institute in Paris.

1914 - 1918 During World War I Marie Curie develops mobile x-ray facilities together with her daughter Irène, in order to examine wounded soldiers at the front.

1918 - 1927 Research at the Radium Institute in Paris with her daughter Irène. The institute becomes a universal centre for nuclear physics and chemistry. Marie gives lectures in Brazil, Spain, Czechoslovakia, and Belgium.

1934 Marie Curie dies in Valence, Switzerland of leukemia from exposure to the high levels of radiation involved in her research.