Name _____

Marie Curie: A Brilliant Scientist



Marie Curie was one of the greatest scientists in history. She made important discoveries about radioactivity, a term she even invented. Her work helped change the world of science and medicine.

Early Life and Education

Marie Curie was born on November 7, 1867, in Warsaw, Poland. Her real name was Maria Sklodowska. As a child, she was very smart and loved learning. However, at that time, girls were not allowed to attend university in Poland. Determined to study, Marie moved to Paris, France, where she attended the Sorbonne University. She worked hard and became one of the first women to earn a degree in physics. Later, she met and married Pierre Curie, another scientist who shared her love for research.

Discoveries and Achievements

Marie and Pierre worked together in their laboratory. In 1898, they discovered two new elements, which they named polonium (after Poland) and radium. These elements gave off energy, which Marie called radioactivity.

Her discoveries were so important that she became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in 1903. Later, in 1911, she won another Nobel Prize, making her the first person to win two Nobel Prizes in different sciences (physics and chemistry).

Challenges and Hard Work

Marie Curie faced many challenges in her life. As a woman in science, she had to fight for respect in a field where most scientists were men. She also had to work in difficult conditions because her research on radioactive materials was dangerous.

Even after her husband Pierre died in an accident in 1906, Marie continued their research. She later created the first mobile X-ray machines to help doctors during World War I.

A Lasting Legacy

Marie Curie's work helped develop treatments for cancer and improved medical technology. Even today, scientists still study her discoveries.

Because of her hard work and determination, she opened the door for many women in science. Her legacy lives on, and she is remembered as one of the most brilliant scientists of all time.

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