

Marie Curie

Pioneer in Science



1 Years ago there was a very famous couple, who were almost like rock stars, but in science: Marie and Pierre Curie. They worked together in a laboratory searching for chemical elements and their radioactivity. Radioactivity is the ability of certain atoms to break down and release radiation. Marie and Pierre Curie discovered the elements polonium and radium which are now in the periodic table.

2 Marie Curie was born in Poland in 1867. At that time, it was not common for women to study past high school. Usually, they devoted themselves to look after the house. For this reason, Marie Curie was forced to continue her studies in a university that would hold classes in secret. Eventually, she was able to save enough money to go to Paris, France and study at Sorbonne University. Although in France, women were able to attend the universities, they were still not allowed to study in the field of chemistry.

3 Marie was not to be stopped. She followed her passion and devoted herself to the studies of physics and chemistry. After finishing her master's degree, Marie met Pierre Curie, a French physicist, whom she married in 1895. They were both dedicated scientists working in the field of chemistry and physics. Marie would go on to become the first person to win the Nobel Prize twice: in 1903 in Physics and again in 1911 in the field of Chemistry.

4 Marie and Pierre Curie were a couple deeply committed to each other. They had two daughters, Irene and Eve. Eve would become a great writer and musician; while Irene followed in the footsteps of her parents and dedicated her life to work in the field

of chemistry. Irene would marry her mother's lab assistant, Frédéric Joliot. Irene and Frédéric themselves were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1935.

5 As mentioned before, Marie and Pierre Curie were considered rock stars of science. Albert Einstein and many other famous people admired Marie Curie and her intelligence. Einstein went to visit Marie while she lived in Paris. But, there were many people who were opposed to Marie Curie's work. Some were jealous and some believed that a woman should be dedicated to the home and not science. During his visit, Albert Einstein told Marie Curie: "If the gossips continue to write about you, don't worry about it and don't read that junk, it is best left to the people for whom it was written".

6 Marie Curie would die from leukemia, a disease that was very common among people who studied radioactivity. It wasn't until years later that it was realized that radiation was harmful to health. Marie Curie is remembered for her many contributions to science and for her courage, refusing to accept a role of staying at home. Marie was inspirational and encouraged many other women to study.

Name _____

Date _____

Marie Curie-Comprehension Assessment

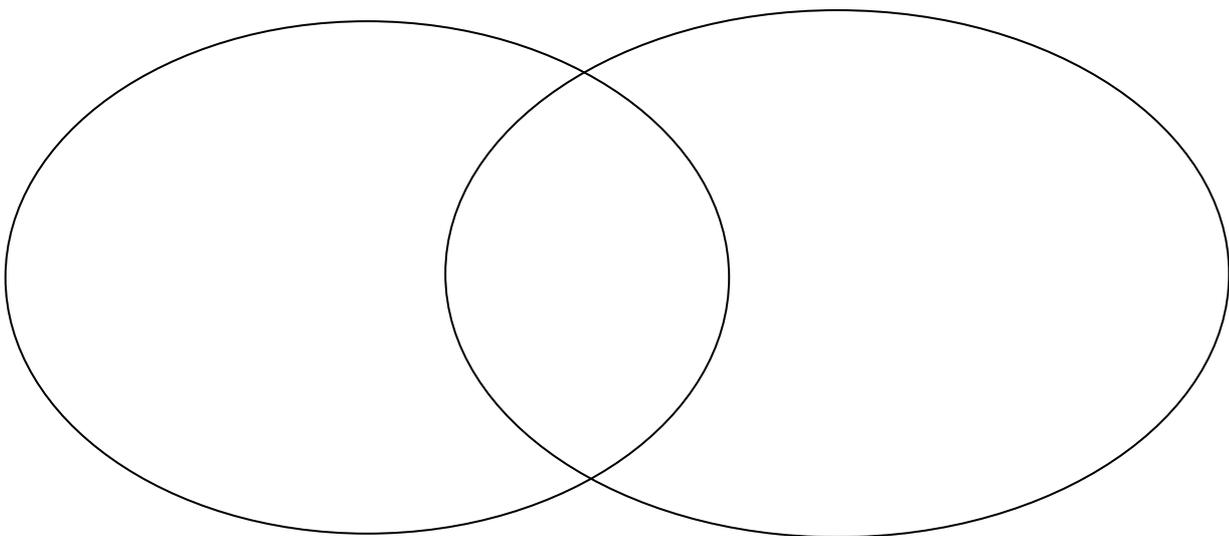
1. According to the text, what is the inference of the Word Pioneer in the title of the reading selection?

- A. A person who takes the first steps in any human activity.
- B. The best person of an activity or discipline.
- C. A person who is engaged in a task that does not belong.
- D. A person who is late for a fashion or trend.

2. Marie Curie couldn't study in a University because she was a woman, so:

- A. she married and dedicated herself to housework.
- B. she decided to leave home and not come back until they let her study.
- C. she went to a secret college to study the topics she liked.
- D. she went to a library and school laboratories.

3. Read paragraph 4 to compare and contrast the daughters of Marie Curie.



4. Do you think Maria was proud of her two daughters? Why or why not?

5. According to the information in paragraph 5, Marie had many followers, including Albert Einstein, but there were also people who spoke ill of her. What advice would you give to Marie Curie about people who say bad things?

6. In paragraph 6, deducing from the text, which of the following would be a synonym for the Word *harmful*?

- A. Positive
- B. Damaging
- C. Healthy
- D. Sick

7. "Life is not easy for any of us. But... So what! We must persevere and, above all, have confidence in yourself. "

8. In the reading find the possible reason why Marie said this.
