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# Who Was Marie Curie?



by Megan Stine

# **Who Was Marie Curie?**

By Megan Stine  
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For my mother—MS

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## **Who Was Marie Curie?**

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One day in November 1903, Marie Curie and her husband got a letter in the mail. The letter invited them to travel from Paris to Sweden to meet the king and queen! Marie was about to be given a gold medal, a fancy dinner, and a huge amount of money. She was about to become famous all over the world. She was about to win the Nobel Prize!



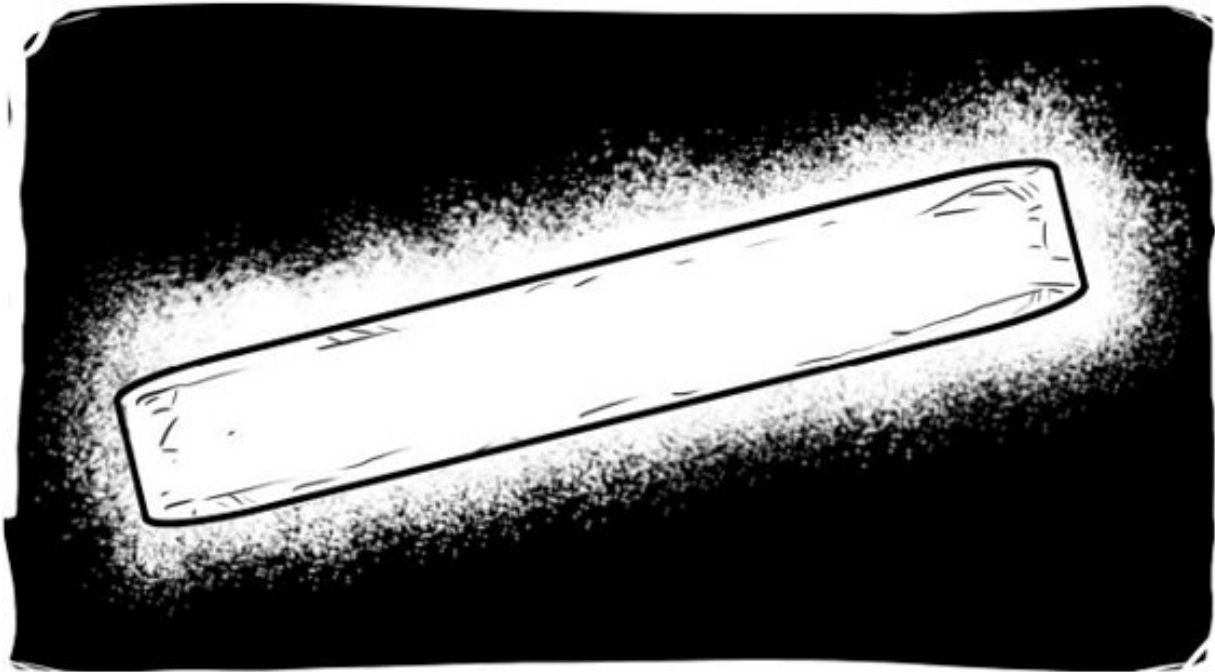
What had she done to deserve all this?

Marie Curie was a scientist at a time when there were almost no female scientists. In fact, most women didn't even go to college then! Marie wasn't like most women. She spoke five languages. She loved math problems so much that her father sent them to her in his letters. She met Albert Einstein—the most famous scientist in the world! She was brilliant and determined to succeed.



Marie was being given the Nobel Prize for her work in science. She had discovered a new metal! She called it radium.

At first, Marie didn't even know what this new metal was. All she knew was that it was amazingly powerful. It gave off energy! It glowed in the dark, giving off a faint green light. Marie thought it looked like fairy light.



By the time her work was done, Marie's discovery would change the world in good ways and bad. Marie Curie would be the most famous woman scientist in history.

## THE NOBEL PRIZE

THE NOBEL PRIZE IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS AND IMPORTANT AWARDS GIVEN. IT WAS CREATED BY THE SWEDISH SCIENTIST WHO INVENTED DYNAMITE. ALFRED NOBEL WAS VERY RICH. HE WANTED TO REWARD PEOPLE WHO HELPED MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. HE CREATED THE NOBEL PRIZE IN HIS WILL. THE PRIZES ARE GIVEN FOR SCIENCES, MEDICINE, LITERATURE, AND PEACE. IN 2013, EACH NOBEL PRIZE CAME WITH A CASH AWARD OF MORE THAN \$1 MILLION!

THE WINNERS OF THE NOBEL PRIZE ARE INVITED TO COME TO STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, FOR A FANCY CEREMONY. THERE, THEY ARE GIVEN A GOLD MEDAL BY THE KING OF SWEDEN! THEN A HUGE BANQUET IS HELD WITH THE KING AND QUEEN.

THE VERY FIRST NOBEL PRIZES WERE GIVEN IN 1901. ONE OF THE SCIENCE PRIZES WAS GIVEN TO WILHELM RÖNTGEN, THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED X-RAYS. MARIE AND PIERRE CURIE WON IN 1903. OTHER FAMOUS WINNERS INCLUDE ALBERT EINSTEIN, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., BARACK OBAMA, JIMMY CARTER, AND AL GORE.



