

Marie and Pierre Curie (1894–1906) Maria Sklodowska was born in Warsaw in 1867. Now known by the French name Marie, she worked hard in a laboratory that was owned by Pierre Curie. He received his early education at home and then joined the Faculty of Sciences at the Sorbonne. Their studies of radioactive substances were carried out under difficult conditions. Their laboratory facilities were hardly adequate and they had to do a lot of teaching to earn a living. In 1898, the couple discovered the elements Polonium and Radium. They eventually won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903 for the discovery of radioactivity. Pierre Curie was born in Paris in 1859. Marie and Pierre Curie got married in 1895. When Pierre died in 1906, Marie honored his memory by continuing their work. In 1911, Marie Curie won another Nobel Prize, this time for chemistry. She was the daughter of a secondary-school teacher. She studied in local schools and received some training in science from her father. Because women were not able to attend university in Poland in the 19th century, Maria left Poland to study at a French university in 1891. He was promoted to Professor in 1900. She was the first person to win the Nobel Prize twice