

Marie and Pierre Curie (1894–1906) Maria Skłodowska was born in Warsaw in 1867. Because women were not allowed to attend university in Poland in the 19th century, Maria left Poland to study at a French university in 1891. Now known by the French name Marie, she worked hard in a laboratory that was owned by Pierre Curie. In 1898, the couple discovered the elements polonium and radium. Pierre Curie was born in Paris in 1859. 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.