Marie Curie was a (1) ………………………… and chemist, best known for her ground-breaking work on radioactivity. Curie was born Maria Skłodowska in Warsaw, Poland in 1867. She studied in secret at the floating University in Warsaw before travelling to Paris where she boarded with her sister before beginning her studies in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics at the University of Paris. Curie obtained her Physics degree in 1893 followed by a Mathematics degree the following year.

It was during this time that she met her future husband Pierre Curie. Pierre was one of the school professors, and after Marie was denied a place at Kraków University on the grounds of her being a woman, she returned to Paris, and married Pierre in 1895. The newly married couple worked together to investigate radioactive uranium minerals which built upon the works of German Wilhelm Roentgen and French physicist Henri Becquerel. Curie (2) ………………………… that the radioactivity came from the (3) ………………………… of the material, and then went on to discover the radioactive elements of Thorium, (4) ………………………… and Radium. The Curies and Becquerel were (5) ………………………… the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903.

Pierre Curie was killed in an accident in 1906, so Marie took over his teaching post becoming the first woman to teach at the University of Paris, and she devoted herself to carrying on the work that she and her husband had started.

Marie was awarded a second Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911, becoming the first person ever to win two Nobel Prizes. Her research led to the development of X-rays in surgery and she then helped to equip ambulances in World War 1 with x-ray-equipment. She often drove the ambulances to the front line herself.

She began touring after the war including two tours to the United States in order to raise funds for radium research enabling her to equip and found radiation laboratories. Unaware of the (6)………………………… effects of radioactive materials, Marie carried out thousands of (7) ………………………… without any safety measures in place, often carrying test tubes of radioactive materials with her in her pocket. She died in 1934 from leukemia and to this day her research papers are still highly (8) …………………………, and are kept on display in lead lined boxes. She’s interred in the Pantheon in Paris.

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