



## Women Who Changed the World

Grade 4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the biography passage carefully. Then answer each question below in complete sentences.

Look for key facts about the person's early life, achievements, and impact. Use details from the passage to support your answers.

### **Marie Curie: The Woman Who Cracked the Atom**



Did you know one brilliant woman changed medicine and science forever with invisible rays? Marie Curie, born Maria Skłodowska, was that extraordinary person.

She was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867. Even as a young girl, Marie loved to learn, but women in Poland were not allowed to attend university. Determined to pursue her passion for knowledge, she moved to Paris, France, to continue her education, often studying in difficult and challenging conditions.

With her husband, Pierre Curie, Marie made groundbreaking discoveries about radioactivity, a new scientific field. They successfully identified and isolated two new elements, which they named polonium (after her home country) and radium. Her remarkable work led her to become the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and she remains the only person ever to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields: Physics and Chemistry.

Marie faced many challenges, including skepticism and discrimination from some male scientists who doubted a woman's ability to do such complex and important work. She also worked tirelessly in a simple, unheated shed, unaware of the long-term dangers of the radioactive materials she handled daily, which eventually affected her health.



Today, Marie Curie is remembered as a true scientific hero. Her pioneering research laid the foundation for understanding atomic physics and led to crucial new medical treatments, especially for cancer. Her incredible dedication and perseverance continue to inspire scientists and students around the globe, showing what is possible with hard work.

---

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

---

**(1) Where was Marie Curie born?**

- (A) Poland     (B) France     (C) Germany     (D) England

**(2) Marie Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different \_\_\_\_\_.**

*— continue writing on the lines below*

---

---

**(3) What does the word "pioneering" mean as it is used in the passage?**

- (A) copying something old     (B) starting something new     (C) ending a project
- (D) following instructions

**(4) Why do you think Marie Curie continued her research even though she faced skepticism and worked with dangerous materials? Use details from the passage.**

---

---

---

---



(5) How has Marie Curie's work changed the world, and what can we learn from her life?

---

---

---

---

