



Read the passage comparing two historical figures. Then answer the questions — support every answer with evidence from the text.

Compare their backgrounds, methods, achievements, and lasting impact. Always quote or paraphrase from the passage.

## Marie Curie vs Nikola Tesla: Innovators of the Modern Age



Marie Curie, a Polish-French physicist and chemist, and Nikola Tesla, a Serbian-American inventor and electrical engineer, were two brilliant minds who transformed the world in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. **Both** dedicated their lives to scientific exploration and technological advancement, leaving an indelible mark on history.

Curie is celebrated for her pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields (Physics in 1903 and Chemistry in 1911). Her meticulous work led to the discovery of two new elements, polonium and radium, fundamentally changing our understanding of atomic structure and paving the way for medical applications like X-rays.

Tesla, **similarly** driven by innovation, is best known for his revolutionary contributions to the design of the modern alternating current (AC) electricity supply system. His inventions, including the AC motor and the Tesla coil, were crucial in bringing electricity to homes and industries, powering cities and transforming daily life across the globe.

**However**, their primary approaches differed. Curie was fundamentally a discoverer, focused on expanding human knowledge of the natural world through pure scientific research, often at great personal risk. **While** Tesla was primarily an inventor and



engineer, applying scientific principles to create practical technologies and systems that could be immediately used to solve real-world problems and improve society.

Despite their different focuses, **both** figures faced significant challenges and displayed immense perseverance. Curie battled sexism in a male-dominated field and suffered health issues from radiation exposure. Tesla experienced financial difficulties and intense rivalries. Yet, **both** profoundly impacted the 20th century and beyond, shaping modern science, medicine, and technology.

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### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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(1) **Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?**

- (A) Marie Curie    (B) Nikola Tesla    (C) Both    (D) Neither

(2) **Who is best known for contributions to the alternating current (AC) electricity supply system?**

- (A) Marie Curie    (B) Nikola Tesla    (C) Both    (D) Neither

(3) **"Curie focused on pure scientific discovery, while Tesla focused on practical inventions." Is this a SIMILARITY or DIFFERENCE?**

- (A) Similarity    (B) Difference

(4) **"Both faced significant challenges and displayed immense perseverance." Is this a SIMILARITY or DIFFERENCE?**

- (A) Similarity    (B) Difference

(5) **Use TWO specific details from the passage to explain ONE key similarity between these two figures.**

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**(6) Which figure do you think had a greater impact on the world? Use THREE pieces of evidence from the passage.**

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