



Read the passage about a real event or figure. Classify statements and explain your reasoning. Remember: even famous people express opinions!

Key challenge: a statement from a history book, scientist, or leader can still be an opinion if it expresses a judgment. Look at the words — not just who said it.

## Marie Curie: A Radiant Mind



Marie Skłodowska Curie, born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867, defied many expectations of her time. Unable to attend university in Poland because she was a woman, she moved to Paris, France, to study at the Sorbonne. Her brilliance quickly shone through, leading her to become a pioneer in the field of radioactivity.

In 1903, Marie Curie, along with her husband Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their groundbreaking work on radioactivity. This made her the first woman in history to win a Nobel Prize. She later made history again in 1911, receiving a second Nobel Prize, this time in Chemistry, for her discovery of the elements polonium and radium. These discoveries were not just new facts; they opened up an entirely new branch of science.

Marie Curie famously said, "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood." This quote reflects her courageous approach to science and life. Her unwavering dedication to science was the most important quality for her success. She worked tirelessly, often in difficult conditions, driven by a profound curiosity.

Historian Dr. Eleanor Vance notes, "Marie Curie's relentless pursuit of scientific truth represents the most inspiring example of human intellectual courage in the early 20th century." Indeed, her contributions paved the way for modern medicine, including cancer treatments. The world owes a tremendous debt to her relentless pursuit of knowledge.



Marie Curie's discovery of radioactivity fundamentally changed our understanding of atomic physics. She died in 1934 from aplastic anemia, likely caused by her prolonged exposure to radiation. Her legacy continues to inspire scientists and women around the globe.



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**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

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(1) **Marie Curie, along with her husband Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903. FACT or OPINION?**

- (A) Fact    (B) Opinion

(2) **Dr. Eleanor Vance notes, "Marie Curie's relentless pursuit of scientific truth represents the most inspiring example of human intellectual courage in the early 20th century." FACT or OPINION?**

- (A) Fact    (B) Opinion

(3) **Marie Curie's discovery of radioactivity fundamentally changed our understanding of atomic physics. FACT or OPINION?**

- (A) Fact    (B) Opinion

(4) **A famous person says something confidently. Does that automatically make it a fact? Explain using an example from the passage.**

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(5)



Choose one opinion from the passage. Rewrite it as a verifiable fact by changing the wording.

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(6) Why is it important to be able to distinguish fact from opinion when reading about history?

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