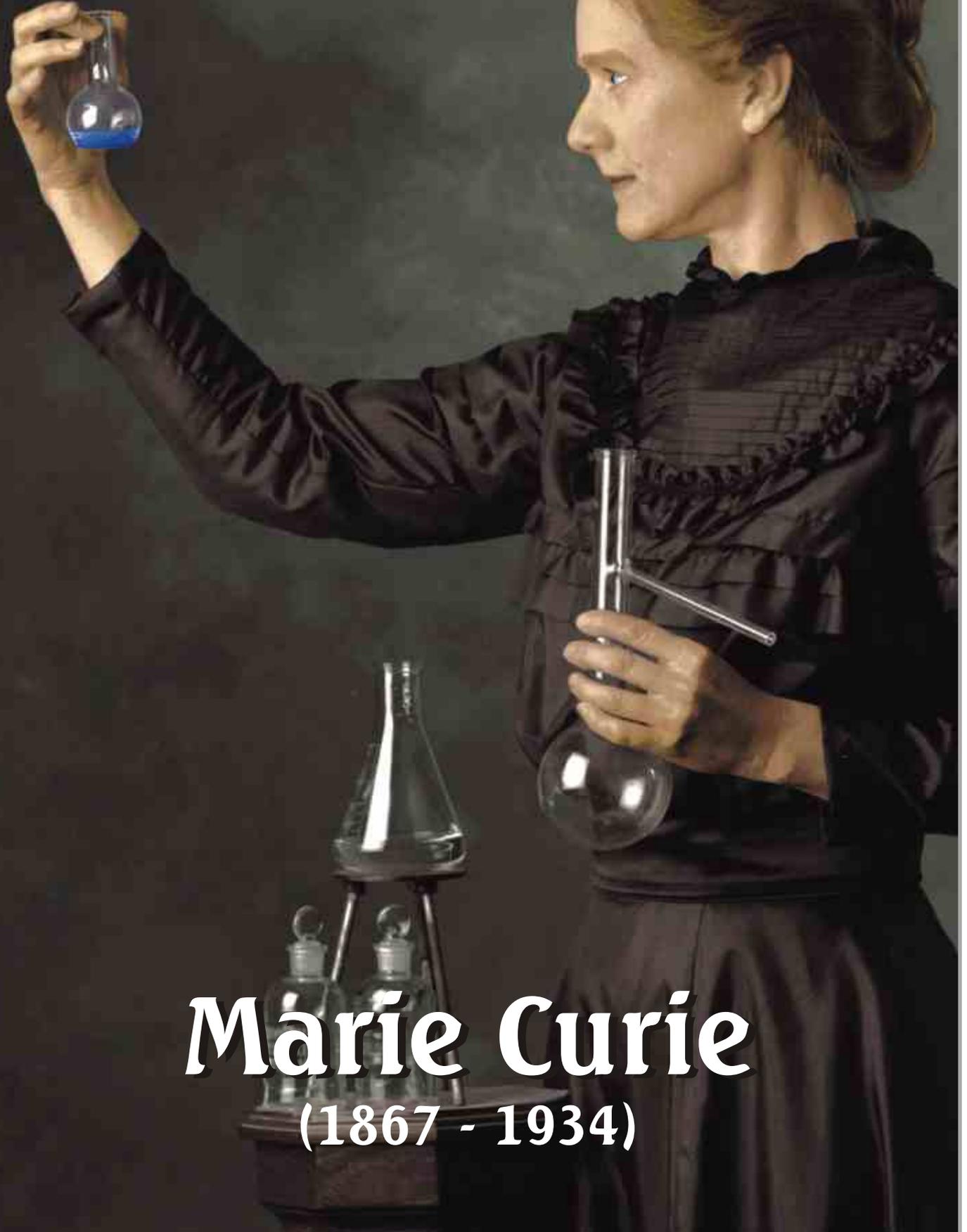


LARGER THAN LIFE

A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS



Marie Curie

(1867 - 1934)

Introduction

Marie Sklodowska Curie was a **Polish-French physicist and chemist**. She was a **pioneer in the field of radioactivity**, the first **twice-honored** Nobel laureate and still today the only laureate in two different sciences, and the first female professor at the Sorbonne. She founded the Curie Institutes in Paris, France, and in her home town, Warsaw.

Birth And Early Life

Marie Sklodowska Curie was **born in Warsaw on November 7, 1867**. In her childhood, she was known as "Manya". Her father was a professor of mathematics and physics. Her mother ran a school for girls.

She received a general education in local schools and some scientific training from her father. She became involved in a students' revolutionary organization and found it prudent to leave Warsaw, then in the part of Poland dominated by Russia, for Cracow, which at that time was under Austrian rule.

In 1891 she went to Paris, France, to study science. She obtained her higher degrees and conducted nearly all her scientific work there, and became a naturalized French citizen.

Chronology

1894: In 1894, Marie, now twenty-seven, was hired to do a **study of the magnetic properties of steel**. Since she had no laboratory, a Polish friend introduced her to Pierre Curie, who provided her with one. A year later, Pierre and Marie were married.

1903: In 1903, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded Pierre Curie, Marie Curie, and Henri Becquerel the **Nobel Prize in Physics**, 'in recognition of the

extraordinary services they have rendered by their joint researches on the radiation phenomena discovered by Professor Henri Becquerel.'

1906: Following the tragic death of Pierre Curie in 1906, she took his place as **Professor of General Physics in the Faculty of Sciences, the first time a woman had held this position**. She was also appointed Director of the Curie Laboratory in the Radium Institute of the University of Paris, founded in 1914.

1911: She received **Nobel Prize in Chemistry**, 'in recognition of her services to the advancement of chemistry by the discovery of the elements radium and polonium, by the isolation of radium and the study of the nature & compounds of this remarkable element'.

1914: In 1914, **Europe became part of a world war**. Marie took her daughter Irene to the battlefields of France with **a truck loaded with X-ray and radium therapy equipment**. They set up their equipment and **used it to locate shrapnel in the torn flesh in thousands of soldiers**. Marie and Irene **saved many lives**. They also taught American and British allies how to use the equipment.

1922: Marie was **elected to the French Academy of Medicine** for her contributions to radiological medicine.

1929: In 1929, Marie **visited the United States**. She was honored by almost every notable American institution and personage.

Death

In 1934, Marie Sklodowska Curie, plagued by a variety of ailments that she suspected were the result of exposure to radium, **died of radiation poisoning**.

Quotes

Be less curious about people and more
curious about ideas.



I was taught that the way of progress was neither
swift nor easy.



Nothing in life is to be feared,
it is only to be understood.