

I'd like to introduce you the very famous Polish woman who was a great scientist. Her name was Maria Skłodowska Curie and she was born on 7th of November 1867 in Warsaw. She was the youngest one out of her 4 siblings and she's lost her mother when she was only ten years old.

She was a great scientist but what exactly did she achieve? Marie Curie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person - man or woman - to win the award twice. Actually, she's the only woman who won the award twice and the only person who won a Nobel Prize in two different sciences. She was also the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris.

She received a general education in local schools and some scientific training from her father, who was a teacher. In 1891, she went to Paris to study physics and mathematics at the Sorbonne. She was introduced to Pierre Curie by a colleague of hers after she graduated. They got married in 1895 and worked together investigating radioactivity. She was hoping that that she would be able to work in her chosen field in Poland, but she was denied a place at Kraków University because she was a woman.

In July 1898, Curie and her husband published a joint paper announcing the existence of an element which they named "polonium", in honour of her native Poland. On 26 December 1898, the Curies announced the existence of a second element, which they named "radium". In June 1903, Curie was awarded her doctorate from the University of Paris. That month the couple were invited to the Royal Institution in London to give a speech on radioactivity; being a woman, she was prevented from speaking, and Pierre alone was allowed to. In 1910, she isolated pure radium metal. However, she never succeeded in isolating polonium.

In December 1903, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded Pierre Curie and Marie Curie the Nobel Prize in Physics. She received a second Nobel Prize, for Chemistry, in 1911. Their daughter, Irène Joliot-Curie was also awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1935.

Besides being a great scientist, she also was a great mother for her two daughters: already spoken up Irene and Eve. While a French citizen, Marie Skłodowska Curie, who used both surnames, never lost her sense of Polish identity. She taught her daughters the Polish language and took them on visits to Poland. Anyway, her husband, Pierre, died in 1906 and she died on 4 July 1934 from leukaemia, caused by exposure to high-energy radiation from her research.

As you can see, education was very important for her and she's never given up. She was very smart woman, great mother and we all should admire her determination.