



Studying in Paris

Curie studied at the University of Paris. This university is also called the Sorbonne (sawr-BON). She lived alone in a small, drafty attic.

Curie loved her science classes but had trouble with math. In science, she studied **chemistry** and **physics** (FIZ-iks). She hired a tutor and worked many extra hours on math. She studied late nearly every night.

↓ A young Curie as portrayed by an actress in a movie about the scientist's life



↑ The Sorbonne is Europe's oldest university.

All of her classes were taught in French. Curie only spoke Polish. She learned to read, write, and speak French.

Curie didn't let anything stop her from doing her schoolwork. Sometimes she even forgot to eat. She finished her studies at the top of her class. She was first in her class in physics. Curie won a scholarship to study math. It is a sign of her intelligence that despite her earlier troubles, she finished second in her class.

Hungry?

Did you know that it took a chemist to make the cereal floating inside your breakfast bowl? Cereal chemists study grains like wheat, rice, corn, and oats and how to make them into cereals. Since grains are the base of the world's food supply, studying their chemistry is a growing field. Cereal chemists spend most of their time in the lab looking for the best way to make cereal products.

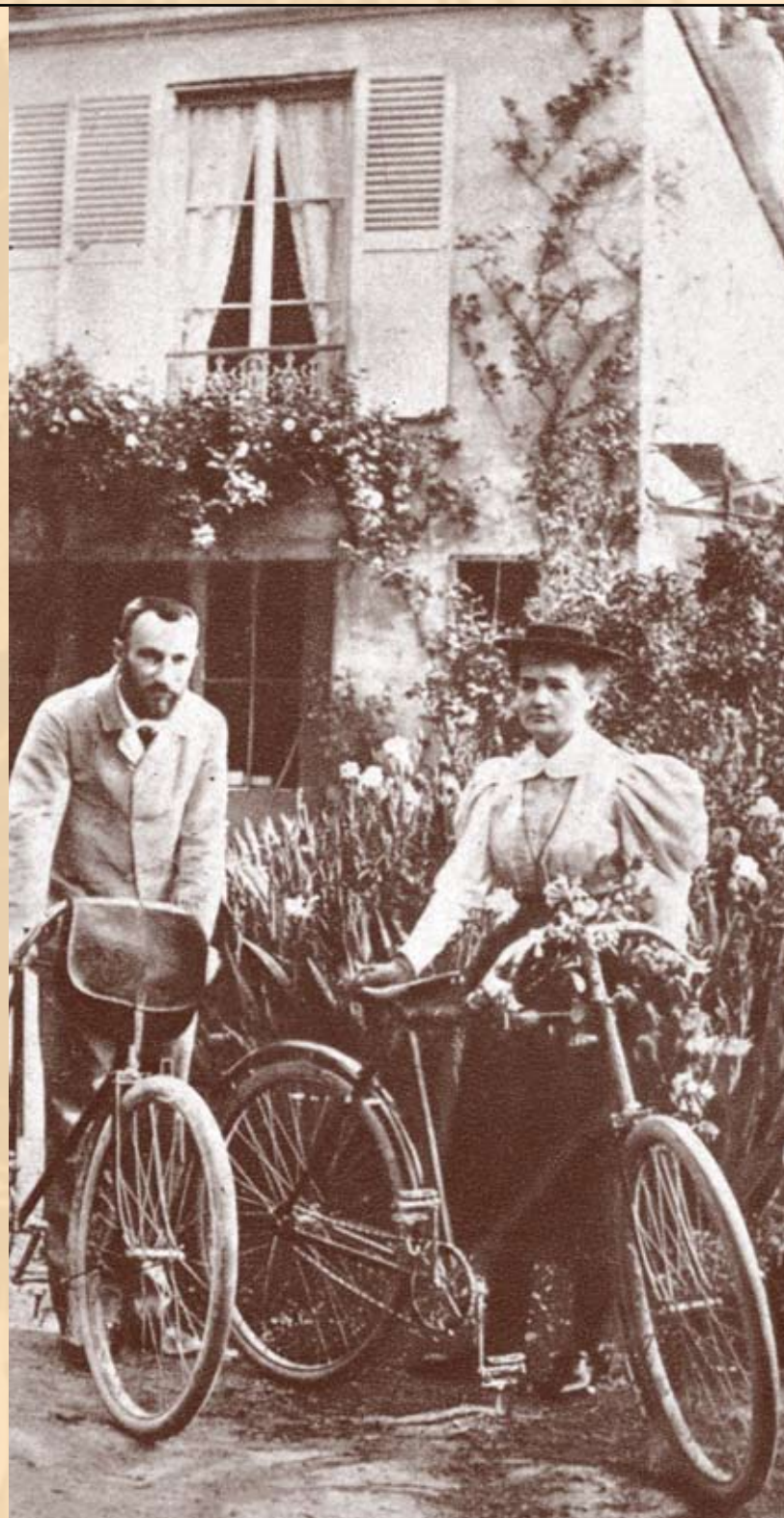


Marie and Pierre

Curie was offered a job to study magnets and how they interact with different kinds of steel. She searched for lab space. It was then she met Pierre Curie. He worked as a teacher and head of the lab at another school in Paris. Pierre Curie was already famous for his work with magnets and crystals. The two married. They had two daughters, Irène and Eve.

Society made it difficult at the time for women scientists to work alone. So, many women like Curie married fellow scientists. The Curies worked together for many years.

Marie and Pierre Curie →



↑ Curie and her daughters

A Modern Family

Curie was a very practical, organized woman. She was determined to be a good scientist. She also wanted to be a good wife and mother. It was very important to both her and her husband that they continue their work together. So she hired a servant to work around the house. She also asked Pierre Curie's father to babysit the children.

Note Taker

Curie took notes on all of her experiments. Among them are also notes of things such as a jelly recipe and how much it cost to have her laundry done.

Pages from →
Curie's notebook

