

5 Marie Curie

Predict the missing words, then listen and fill in the blanks.

Marie Curie was born in Poland in 1867 when it was part of the Russian Empire. Although she was an excellent student, Marie could not enter university because she was female, so she studied secretly in "underground" classes. At 24 she moved to Paris to study at the Sorbonne, a famous university. She barely made enough money in Paris, studying all day and working as a tutor at night. Curie survived on bread, butter and tea, and her health suffered because of her poor diet. In 1893 she earned a degree in physics and then earned a degree in mathematics. Soon after she met Pierre Curie and married him. They remained happily married and had two children. She became interested in X-rays and uranium. In 1903 Curie became the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in physics. She won the honor along with her husband for their work on radioactivity. The Curies used their prize money to research. Unfortunately, in 1906 Pierre was killed in an accident, getting hit by a horse-drawn wagon. Marie struggled with grief. Later she became the Sorbonne's first female professor. Curie died in 1934, due to exposure to radiation. Marie's daughter followed in her mother's footsteps, winning the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1935.

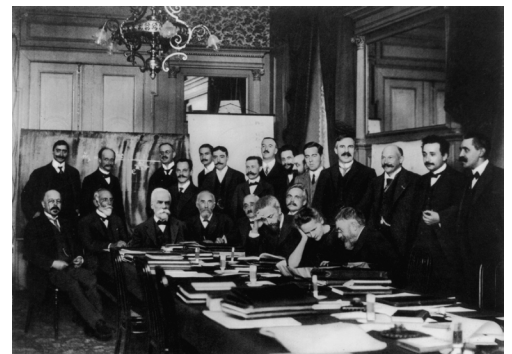
Check the above bold words, read the paragraph, then brainstorm more vocabulary below.



maternal

paternal

male-dominated field



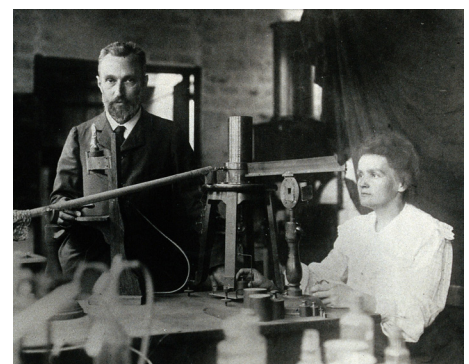
periodic table

Nobel Prize



Curie Institute

radiation exposure





Listening Skill 1: Consider prior knowledge about the theme

1. What do you know about the theme? Take notes then share with a partner.
2. Now talk about the six pictures. Describe each picture and guess what it's about.

Thinking about the theme and discussing the pictures will help you do the dictation below.

First Listening: Listen and write how well you understood using the scale below.

Sentence 1: ___ Sentence 5: ___

Sentence 2: ___ Sentence 6: ___

Sentence 3: ___ Sentence 7: ___

Sentence 4: ___ Sentence 8: ___

A - I am quite sure I understood everything.

B - I am quite sure I understood most of the sentence.

C - I think I understood about half of the sentence.

D - I didn't understand much.

F - I didn't understand the sentence at all.

Dictation: Listen and write as much as possible. Don't worry if you can't write everything.

*Post-Listening: Check for key vocabulary: **property, fortune, empire, resolve, aspire, radioactive isotope, polonium, radium, chemistry, to found, X-ray, marrow***

Scientists Review

Match each scientist with their scientific theory, and with their personal background.

	scientific theory	personal background
1. Galileo Galilei	_____	_____
2. Isaac Newton	_____	_____
3. Charles Darwin	_____	_____
4. Albert Einstein	_____	_____
5. Marie Curie	_____	_____

scientific theory	personal background
1. accumulated evidence for a theory of evolution by breeding animals such as pigeons and earthworms.	a) criticized many aspects of schooling and famously said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."
2. did experiments that showed white light is a mixture of colored rays: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.	b) despite being a sincere Catholic, had three children out of marriage.
3. explained that objects of different weights fall at the same speed in a vacuum.	c) parents' families lost their property and fortunes by participating in Poland's fight for independence from the Russian Empire.
4. invented techniques for isolating radioactive isotopes which led to the discovery of the elements polonium and radium.	d) while father wanted his child to become a doctor or a priest, he had always felt fascinated by the natural world.
5. showed the connection between matter and energy with $E=mc^2$, and explained that nothing could ever move faster than light.	e) youth was traumatic because father died, mother abandoned her baby, and stepfather mistreated him/her.