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2006

Marie Curie: A Brilliant Life by Elizabeth MacLeod

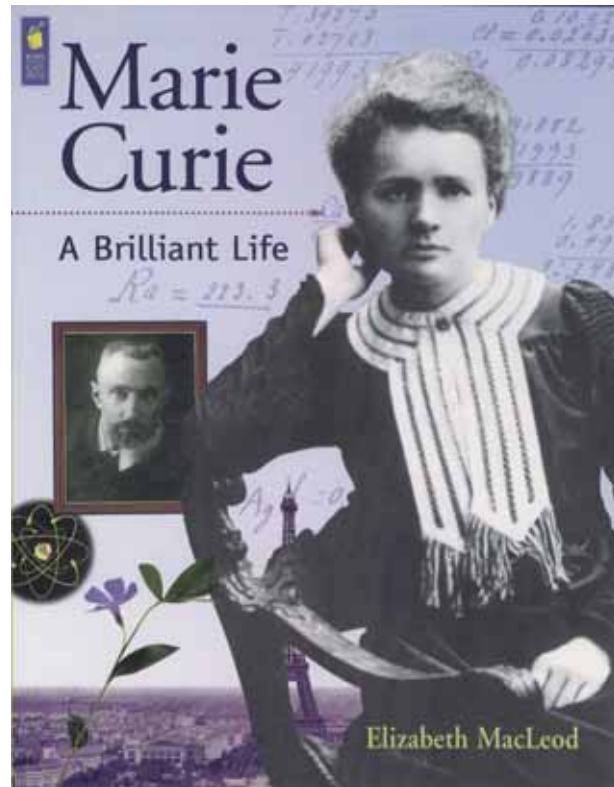
I've always been interested in science. But when I was a kid, there weren't very many women scientists that I could use as role models. Marie Curie was one of the few, and I was amazed at how successful she was.

When I began to write about Marie, I found that science was only part of her life. She was a loving daughter and sister, her home country of Poland meant a lot to her, she knew how to have fun and she had success, romance and tragedy in her life.

Marie was also very brave and helped many soldiers during World War I. She went out to the battlefields where the wounded soldiers were and X-rayed them as quickly as possible. That way, doctors would know how to best look after them.

I was also really impressed with Marie's determination. Whether it was finding a way to study in France, doing back-breaking work in her freezing lab or getting the Radium Institute built, she made it happen. Marie faced a lot of obstacles in her life but overcame them all.

Because of Marie, many girls - and boys - have become interested in science. Maybe that's her greatest accomplishment!



Thematic links:

History
Women's studies
Social studies
Biography
Science, Physics, Chemistry
Mathematics

Activity Ideas:

Visit www.kidscanpress.com and download the resource sheet about using biographies in the classroom and library.

- Find out more about Pierre Curie and why he was such a well-known scientist.
- Imagine interviewing Marie about her amazing discoveries. What questions would you ask her?
- Investigate the many ways we use radiation today.
- Marie was one of the first woman scientists but today there are many. Find out about such famous Canadian female scientists as Birute Galdikas, Harriet Brooks Pitcher, Irene Ayako Uchida, Helen Hogg and others.
- Create a time line for a famous person or for yourself (pages 30-31).