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Marie Curie (1867–1934)

In a scientific world still dominated by men, Marie Curie shone not only as an extraordinary pioneer in the field of radioactivity, but also as a trailblazing female scientist. A French-Polish chemist and physicist, Curie discovered two new elements, polonium and radium, and revolutionised our understanding of radioactivity, the process by which unstable atoms decay by emitting energy in the form of radiation. The first person of either gender to win or share two Nobel Prizes, Curie is one of the most renowned scientists of a generation whose influences can be seen throughout many areas of modern science, from particle physics to medicine.

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