

Marie Curie: Defining Her World Through Science

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Individual Website

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I have always enjoyed learning about scientists and medical researchers for as long as I can remember. I began to brainstorm topics that related to the theme of Breaking Barriers, but I struggled to find any one topic that really captivated my interest to the point that I would want to research that topic, when Marie Curie occurred to me. As I thought about her further, my interest in her grew. I began to conduct research about her life, starting with Encyclopaedia Britannica's biographical piece on Curie. That was when I realized that she had actually broken a number of scientific, gender-based, and social barriers in the scientific world.

When I started to do research about Marie Curie, I began by searching online for a reliable article which included details about her life. I used a variety of web articles and biographical entries, books about her, and archived newspapers from her time to research Marie Curie's life and what she accomplished. My most helpful source was Encyclopaedia Britannica's biographical piece about Curie because it detailed her life, work, and what the world around her was like. As I worked on the research, my understanding of the topic changed through learning about the social prejudice she faced because of her work. Many people did not respect her and disagreed with a woman contributing to science.

I chose to create a website because I had been interested in doing one and it was the most appealing option as an individual project for me. I was also interested in the added challenge of navigating the new NHD website builder. After creating the home page with my thesis statement, I made additional pages, including a page on Marie Curie's life, specialized pages on her research and on her winning the Nobel Prize twice, a page relating to Breaking Barriers, and one for her effect on the world, and pages for my annotated bibliography and process paper. I chose to break down my website into these sections because it felt logical to separate her breakthrough

work (scientific research) and her recognition (Nobel Prize winning) from general information about her life. I also wanted the theme to be on a page of its own with its own focus.

Marie was very intelligent. She attended the Sorbonne after being refused a Polish collegiate education, thus breaking gender barriers. She also became the first female professor there. She later broke both scientific and gender barriers as she won two nobel prizes-- the first person, male or female, to accomplish this-- and discovered two new elements. The idea of females working in the scientific field was disliked by society, but she truly broke barriers and reshaped our world in the process. She redefined what it meant to be a female and to be a scientist by her own daring to be both.