

Marie Curie

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Individual Website

Junior Division

Student Composed Words: 1,090

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When I was first starting this project, I wanted to research video games or something else technology related. However, after a day of trying to find sources about it I lost motivation and decided to find something else. I searched on the topic helper thingy in the NHD website and came across Marie Curie. I remembered her because a few days prior I had watched a short video on her achievements. From this moment I became set on trying to research her.

I started my research by googling “Marie Curie” and began filtering them one by one. I eventually ended up with a few secondary sources but no primary sources. I searched on Google Scholar but it was usually always things that were too complicated for me to understand, not the type of things I was looking for or were in a different language. I fell down a rabbit hole and ended up on a website that looked like it was made “back in the day” as old people like to call it. The website led me to a newspaper article from 1998 (I think? I can’t remember back that far) and reported on the Curie couple’s discovery of two new elements.

I started my project by making a document for a draft and writing down all of my key points. I then began putting them into words and paragraphs. This took me about 1-2 weeks to get everything to make a bit of sense. After that I was already tight on time and started planning out what my website would look like but I realized that that would be a waste of time so I decided to wing it. It was a bad idea because I nearly cried while trying to figure out how to make things work properly but at least it got done in time.

My historical argument is “Marie Curie and Pierre Curie discovered two new elements back in 1898. This discovery led to Marie becoming the first woman to get a doctorate in France, which was considered impossible for a woman back then. They helped the world shape its knowledge of radiation and made use of it by portable X-rays. Portable X-rays proved useful during World War 1 where they were taken to the battlefield to treat wounded soldiers”.

Marie dedicated her life to trying to find medical ways to use radioactivity. She showed the world that women can get a career in science (which was considered impossible for women at that time). Marie broke barriers and became many firsts; the first woman in Europe to get a doctorate; the first woman to get a nobel prize; the first person to win two nobel prizes. She was a person who Einstein described as “the only one whom fame cannot corrupt”.