

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

TEACHERS' GUIDE



Marie Curie

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Frau Isa

\$15.99 US/\$18.99 CAN

ISBN: 9781847809629

Ages: 4 to 8 (Grades: PreK to 2)

32 pages

Hardcover, 7.6 x 9.5 inches

www.littlepeoplebigdreams.com



LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Even as a young child, Marie Curie knew she wanted to be a scientist, and she wouldn't let anything stop her. When she was not allowed to go to college in Poland, she moved to France, learned an entirely new language, and became a star scholar. She went on to become a leader in both physics and chemistry, identifying two new elements and developing a way to use X-rays to help legions of injured soldiers in World War I. Marie's dedication, intelligence, and sheer determination helped her not only achieve her dreams, but truly make the world a better place.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. Why is Marie Curie famous?
2. What did Marie want to be, even as a little girl?
3. When she was not allowed to attend her brother's college, what did Marie do?
4. Who was Marie's husband?
5. What did Marie and her husband discover?
6. What awards did Marie receive, and why were they special?

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. The very beginning of the book explains that, even from a young age, Marie decided to be "a scientist, not a princess." Marie went on to become a literal scientist, but what do students think this statement means on a larger scale?
2. In school, Marie won a medal for her achievements. Look again at the page showing this. Ask the class to notice the size of the medal compared to Marie. Do they think the medal was actually that size? Why do they think the illustrator drew the medal so large?

3. The book explains that Marie couldn't attend the same college as her brother because, "in her home country, only men were allowed to study." Ask the class to consider this rule. Why do they think only men could go to that college? Do they think that rule is fair? Why or why not?
4. Marie Curie knew there are "many ways to help those in need." Ask the students to describe how her discoveries helped injured soldiers in World War I. In what ways did Marie's determination and courage inspire others, especially young girls? In what ways do they think she continues to inspire people today?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Young Marie treated the medal she earned in school "like a treasure." Ask the class to think about something they consider a treasure and create a drawing to show its importance.
2. When faced with the inability to attend college in her home country, Marie "wouldn't take no for an answer," and moved to a country where she could study. Ask the class what character trait describes her actions. What other character traits did Marie have that helped her achieve her dreams in life?
3. Marie is famous for discovering two elements: radium and polonium. Access a periodic table of the elements, either through your school or from the internet and let the students explore it. Have they heard of this chart? Do they recognize any of the elements? You can explain that these elements are the building blocks that make up everything in our universe! You can also point out that some of them are named after planets, such as Uranium, Neptunium, and Plutonium, and some are named after places, like Californium, Nihonium, and Moscovium. Some are even named after people – don't forget to point out Curium!
4. Marie Curie won not one, but TWO Nobel Prizes for her scientific work. Ask the class to consider whether they would like to win a prestigious award. What would it be? A Nobel Prize? An Olympic medal? An Academy Award, or a Grammy? Have them make a list some of the things they will need to do in order to achieve their goal.

