

# **A Radioactive Revolution: Marie Curie's Legacy**

Sarah Ramzan

Sarah Yun

Junior Division

Group Website

Student-Composed Words: 1200

Process Paper Words: 500

Media Length: 2:38

# Process Paper

We started off our project by compiling a list of people and events that both caught our eye and fit into this year's theme, breaking barriers. Once we did a little research into these topics, we narrowed our choices down. Both of us share a common interest in science, so the story of Marie Curie compelled us from the beginning. She was also a woman in a time where science was dominated by men, which only made her more remarkable. With these factors in mind, deciding upon our final topic was easy since we had found a person who had made remarkable discoveries, but had many odds stacked against her, particularly because she was a woman.

Now that we had decided on a topic, we started our research by gathering books and websites to gain a basic understanding of our topic. We took notes from many secondary sources and some primary sources, including Marie's autobiography. Some books included references to other sources, which was helpful since we got several different views and perspectives about our topic. Also, we looked at newspaper articles, which showed the public's reaction to Marie Curie. We read some lectures and research articles she wrote, which illustrated the scientific aspect of our topic. These sources gave us every single detail of Marie's life, giving us a specific timeline that would become the basis for our project. Once we obtained all of this information, we sorted it into categories, such as historical context, early life, education, awards, and legacy, that would make sense for our project.

With our research in mind, we decided that a website would best display our topic since we could make it interactive and use our creativity to format the information in an engaging way. After settling on a theme, we utilized the website builder to customize our website to our

preference and build it in a way that would be cohesive and display our information effectively. We experimented a lot with different formats, which brought us successes and failures, but were both helpful in the development of our website. After each major change, we made sure to view our website objectively as best we could to put ourselves in the reader's shoes. This included looking at how well the information connected to our images and what placement would provide the reader with the best understanding of what we were trying to convey.

During our research, we learned that there were a lot of barriers that Marie Curie had to face, some of which we had not even thought about. Her more famous accomplishments include discovering radium, polonium, and radioactivity, but some of the lesser known barriers she broke were just as monumental. She could not get an education past high school in Poland, so she managed to get an education in Paris. This set the stage for her to discover radioactivity. Marie Curie's legendary impact in science despite the barriers she faced still persists as an inspiring example of determination and perseverance.