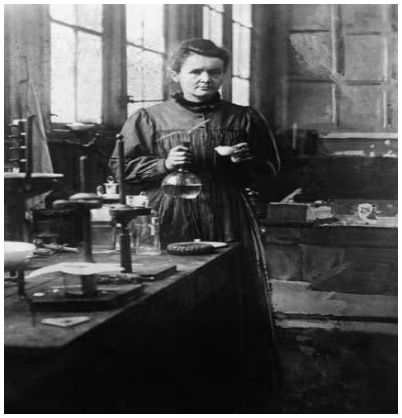
Marie Skłodowska Curie

(7 November 1867 – 4 July 1934)

Marie Skłodowska Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland. She was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win it twice, and the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different subjects. She was also the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris.

She shared the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics with her husband Pierre Curie and with physicist Henri Becquerel. She won the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry after she and her husband first discovered the radioactive elements polonium and radium. Marie continued to investigate their properties and develop the theory of radioactivity. She also documented the properties of the radioactive elements and their compounds. Radioactive compounds became important as sources of radiation in both scientific experiments and in the field of medicine, where they are used to treat tumors. The curie (symbol Ci) is a unit of radioactivity. It is defined as 1 Curie = 3.7×10^{10} decays per second. The curie has now been replaced by an SI derived unit, the Becquerel (Bq), which is decay per second. Therefore: 1Ci = 3.7×10^{10} Bq



(*Marie Curie working in her laboratory at the University of Paris in 1925*)

Teachers may suggest students to make a collage of photographs of scientists in physics depicting the advancements in the subject.