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ZENA MEETS

# Marie Curie



## Little questions, big discoveries

Written by Zen Bloom
Art direction by Rowan Vale



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ZenBloomBooks

# A book to share

**Read slowly. Point to the pictures. Leave time for little questions and big ideas.**

Zena is a fictional child who dresses up to tell this story. She is not a portrait of Marie Curie.

This is a first introduction to a real life. The drawings are imaginative dress-up scenes. The ending and activities invite you to play.

Written by Zen Bloom. Art direction by Rowan Vale.

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MEET THE REAL PERSON

# Marie Curie

**Marie Curie loved learning. She grew up in Poland and went to Paris to study. With other scientists, she discovered two new elements, polonium and radium. She won two Nobel Prizes and helped bring X-rays to doctors during the First World War.**

**Come along with Zena! Turn the page and discover the story together.**



A girl loved books and school.
Each page could be a tool.

She read and learned and grew.
There was so much to do.



She went away to learn.
It soon would be her turn.

With books held close and tight,
She worked by day and night.



She found a friend who knew
That questions matter, too.

They worked as one small team
To test a big new dream.



Some rocks held clues inside.
What else could they hide?

With tools to test and see,
She asked what they could be.



She checked each little thing.
What news would testing bring?

She sorted, weighed and tried.
More clues were tucked inside.



Two new elements were found.
In rocks dug from the ground.

Each had a name to say.
New knowledge led the way.



The work took years to do.
Each test gave one more clue.

She wrote what she could see.
How careful she could be!



Two prizes came her way.
For work she did each day.

She showed what minds could do.
With questions, old and new.



She helped take X-rays, too.
To help the doctors view

The bones they could not see.
How useful that could be!



A question starts a quest.
Try looking, then a test.

With help and time to play,
What might you learn today?



## Look again

Find the rock.
Find the magnifying glass.
What could a tool show
that eyes cannot see?



## Have a go

With a grown-up, try
a big fridge magnet.

What will it pick up?

Keep tiny things out of mouths.



## Tell the story

Who helped with the work?
Think back to the teammates.
What can you find out
with someone else?



## A little wonder

An element is one kind
of basic material.

Gold is an element, too.

Where have you seen gold?

# A little note for grown-ups

**Marie Curie lived from 1867 to 1934. She was born in Warsaw and studied in Paris.**

**Marie and Pierre Curie identified polonium and radium in 1898. Radioactivity had already been discovered by Henri Becquerel.**

**She shared the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics with Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel, and won the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.**

**During the First World War, she helped organise mobile X-ray services. The ordinary rocks and pretend instruments in Zena's pictures are story props, not instructions for experiments.**

**This book simplifies a longer life. Zena's play, friends and props illustrate ideas; they do not reconstruct particular childhood events.**

## Explore the story further

**Nobel Prize: Marie Curie biography**
**Nobel Prize: Marie Curie's story**
**Musée Curie: an X-ray made by Marie**

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# Little rhymes.
# Big adventures.

**Books, rocks, questions and careful tests. Follow a scientist who kept looking for answers and discovered something new. A first biography about curiosity, teamwork and learning.**

Read, point, wonder and play with Zena.

## Collect the first ten adventures

- ☐ 01 Marie Curie
- ☐ 02 Neil Armstrong
- ☐ 03 Frida Kahlo
- ☐ 04 Albert Einstein
- ☐ 05 Amelia Earhart
- ☐ 06 Leonardo da Vinci
- ☐ 07 Jane Goodall
- ☐ 08 Ludwig van Beethoven
- ☐ 09 Whitney Houston
- ☐ 10 Pelé

Ten little books. A world to discover.

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