

IRENE CURIE

Irene Curie's (1897- 1956) started her formal education at age ten when her parents, Marie and Pierre Curie, discovered her knack for mathematical abilities and skills. Though World War I disrupted her studies, she worked as a nurse radiographer along with her mother. Following her doctorate degree, Curie immersed herself completely into scientific research.

In 1934, she discovered artificial radioactivity along with her husband and researcher Frederic Joliot-Curie. With this discovery she was able to synthesize 'designer' radioactive elements in the laboratory. Such elements are now used in tens of millions of medical procedures every year. Her research on neutrinos provided an important step in the discovery of uranium fission, which was used for the development of the atomic bomb.

In 1935, following in her mother's footsteps, she received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with her husband, for the discovery of artificial radioactivity.

