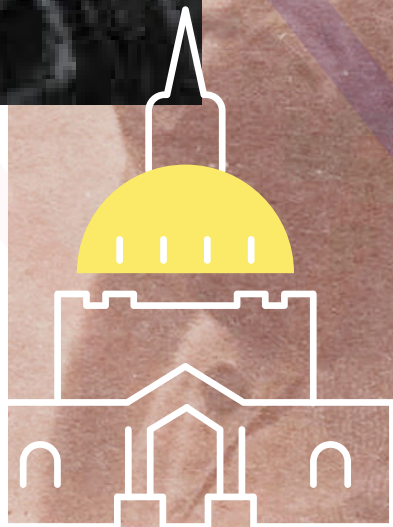
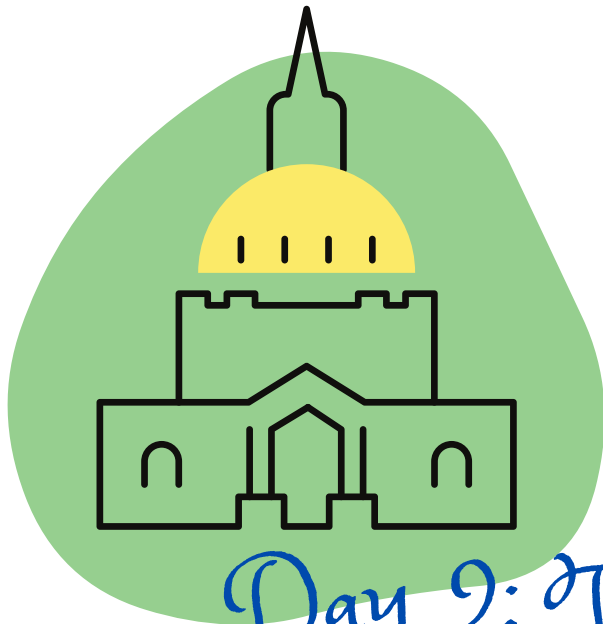




Day 2: The Promise





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Marie and Pierre Curie Interactive Story Ideas!



Background scene:

Play this video in the background on a big screen, smart board or laptop with the sound on low. Warm & Cozy Dark Academia Ambience (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAgPaHqJCpk>).



Storytelling Role-Play: 5 sand dollars each

(2 Students to help cut out props and 6 students to role play)

Choose 3 girl and 3 boy volunteers to portray Marie, Bronya, the librarian, Pierre, Jacques and Marie's father.

Let students listen for their part and act out what is happening in the story.



New word: 1-5 sand dollars

Pact: A pact is a solemn promise. Asking someone to make a pact with you means you would like them to keep this commitment and promise.

*Remind the students that they can earn a sand dollar if they tell you at the end of the story what the new word means. If they get it wrong remind them of the definition and have them try again in a few minutes.

Day 2: Marie and Pierre Curie

It is 1883, and Maria has graduated at the top of her class from high school. In the past few years, she has lost her sister and her beloved mother. She spends her days and nights studying science, and her father devotes himself to teaching her.

In Russian-controlled Poland, women weren't allowed to go to a university. Maria joins the Uniwersytet Latający, the Flying (or Floating) University, where women secretly gather to get their education, furtively moving from house to house so they won't get caught.

"Rat-tat-tattat-tat, tat, tat," Maria and her older sister Bronya use the special, agreed-upon secret code to enter their secret university. **(Door prompt, use a secret knock to enter the university)**. Having seen their loved ones suffer, the sisters know they want to dedicate their lives to studying science and helping humanity. But for that, they will need to go to a university—something neither of them have the money for.

"Let's make a pact," says Maria, clasping Bronya's hand.

"You go first. Go to the Sorbonne University in Paris, and I'll stay back to work and provide for your tuition," she continues.

"And as soon as I'm done with my education, we can switch!" says Bronya excitedly, "I'll call you to Paris as soon as I can!"

"I'll see you soon," says Maria with a tight hug. "And remember...Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

Maria leaves to work as a governess, taking care of the children in a wealthy agricultural family and making friends with the horses in the stables. Secretly, she teaches the young village children in the evenings and studies well into the night.

After three and a half years, she goes home to spend a delightful year with her father and finds a tiny lab run by her cousin that she can experiment in! Soon, Bronya—now a doctor and married—comes to retrieve her. It is now Maria's turn to go to a university!

Pierre, meanwhile, has become a Bachelor of Science. He has studied crystals with his brother, Jacques, and works as the Director of Laboratory Work at his school. Pierre loves spending time with his brother. They enjoy taking long walks along the river, often stopping to jump in and use their strong swimming skills. Even underwater, Pierre notices the fascinating geometric shapes of nature. He diligently publishes one research paper after the next. **(Measurement tools prompt, use the tools and measure!)**

Day 2: Marie and Pierre Curie

When Maria gets to the university she changes her name to Marie, and works hard to catch up. “Thud!” In the silent library, the loud noise startles the librarian. Rushing to see what caused it, he finds Marie has fainted and fallen off her seat. This is not the first—or, indeed, the only—time. With little money and much to catch up on academically, Marie survives on bread and tea. At night time, Marie goes to her little attic room up six flights of stairs and piles on every single item of clothing she owns to stay warm. (Bed and clothes prompt, snuggle under all those layers and shiver). Yet, she is happier than all her wildest dreams combined!

“All that I saw and learned that was new delighted me. It was like a new world opened to me, the world of science, which I was at last permitted to know in all liberty,” she wrote later.

Stunning everyone with her determination and perseverance, Marie graduates at the top of her classes, earning two degrees in Math and Science. (Graduation cap prompt, walk across the classroom and receive two scrolls).

It is 1894, and Marie requires space for research work about magnets. She is introduced to Pierre by a Polish physicist. There, standing framed against large bay windows, with the light illuminating his chestnut hair, is the man who will become her partner both in science and in life.

The two work together in Pierre’s lab, and as soon as her research is complete, Marie returns, as planned, to Poland. This time, Pierre asks for a promise.

Please come back?



Questions/Reading discussion: 1-5 sand dollars

(Students can earn a sand dollar for discussion participation)

Ask: What promise did the two sisters make?

Example: Marie would work in Poland and send money to Bronya so she could become a doctor in Paris, and Bronya would then call Marie as soon as she was done.

Ask: What does Marie do to earn money?

Example: She works as a governess with a wealthy family.

Ask: Is university a wonderful time for Marie? Why or why not?

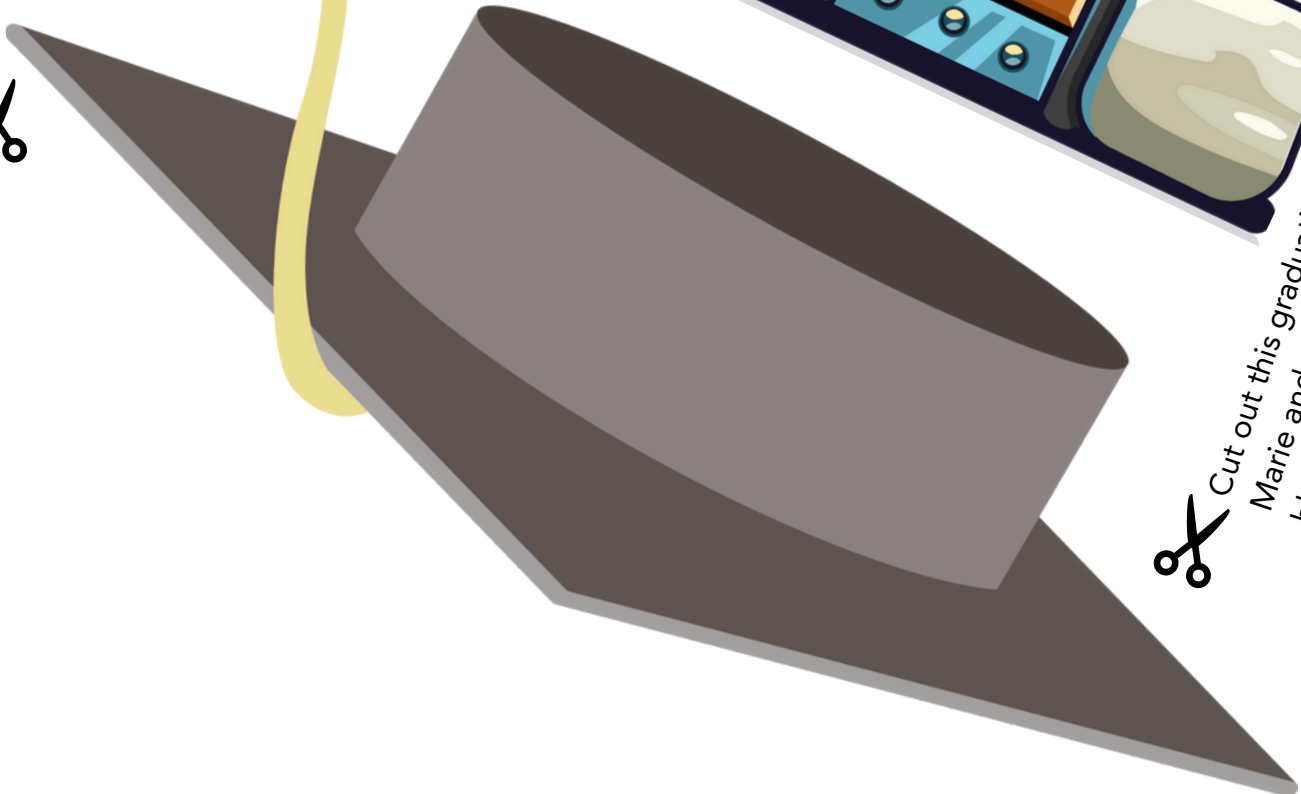
Example: University is not without challenges for Marie. She has very little money for basic necessities like heat, clothes or food. However, being able to learn freely makes her feel like a whole new world is opening up for her. Ask: Do you think she will come back? Why? Answers will vary

Cut this out and stick it on the door. Let students come up with their own secret knocking patterns to enter the Flying University classroom.

Cut out this brush and use it to gently stroke a pretend horse.



Cut out this graduation cap for Marie and roll two scrolls of blank paper for her degrees.

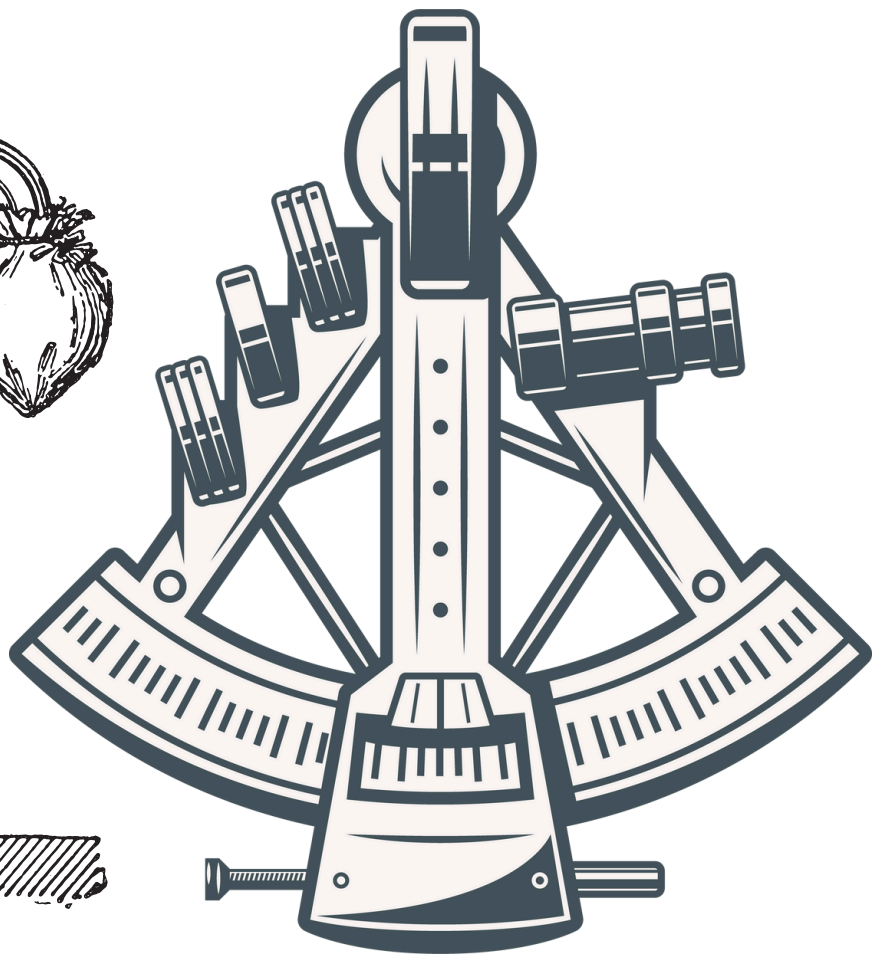
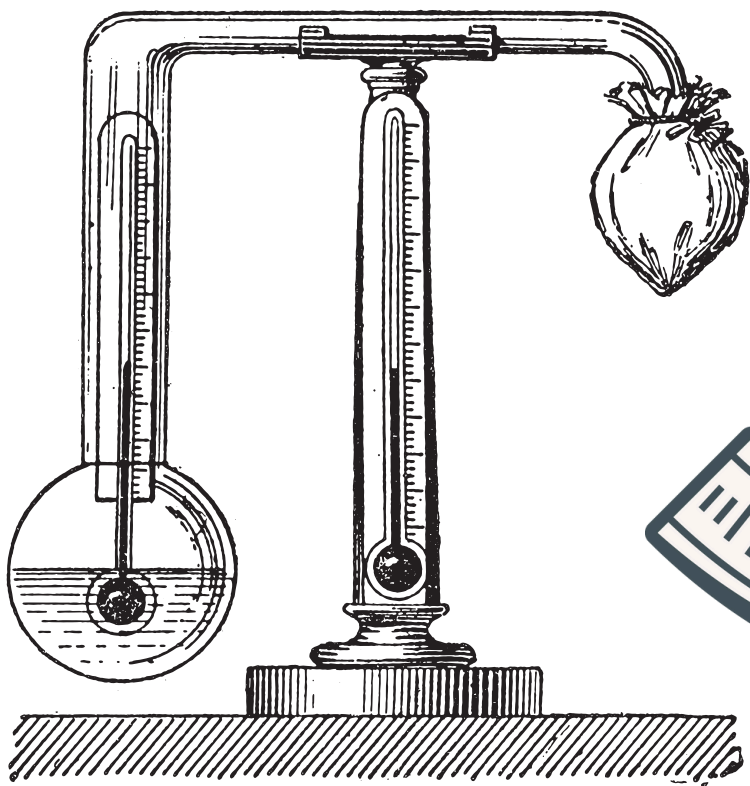


Maria and Bronya:
Tape this on a board
or wall and make up
a secret knock to
enter the university,

Maria: Stroke a
pretend horse in the
stable. Brush its
glossy coat gently.

Maria: Walk across the classroom
and receive your scroll to graduate!

Cut out these scientific instruments for Pierre to use in making measurements.



Cut out this bed covered with clothes to portray Marie.



Pierre: Hold up these scientific instruments and make measurements. Be very slow and careful.

Pierre: Hold up these scientific instruments and make measurements. Be very slow and careful.

Maria: Snuggle under ALL your clothes to stay warm. Shiver because it is still cold!