

Marie Curie

Questions, questions. Marie had SO many questions about science.

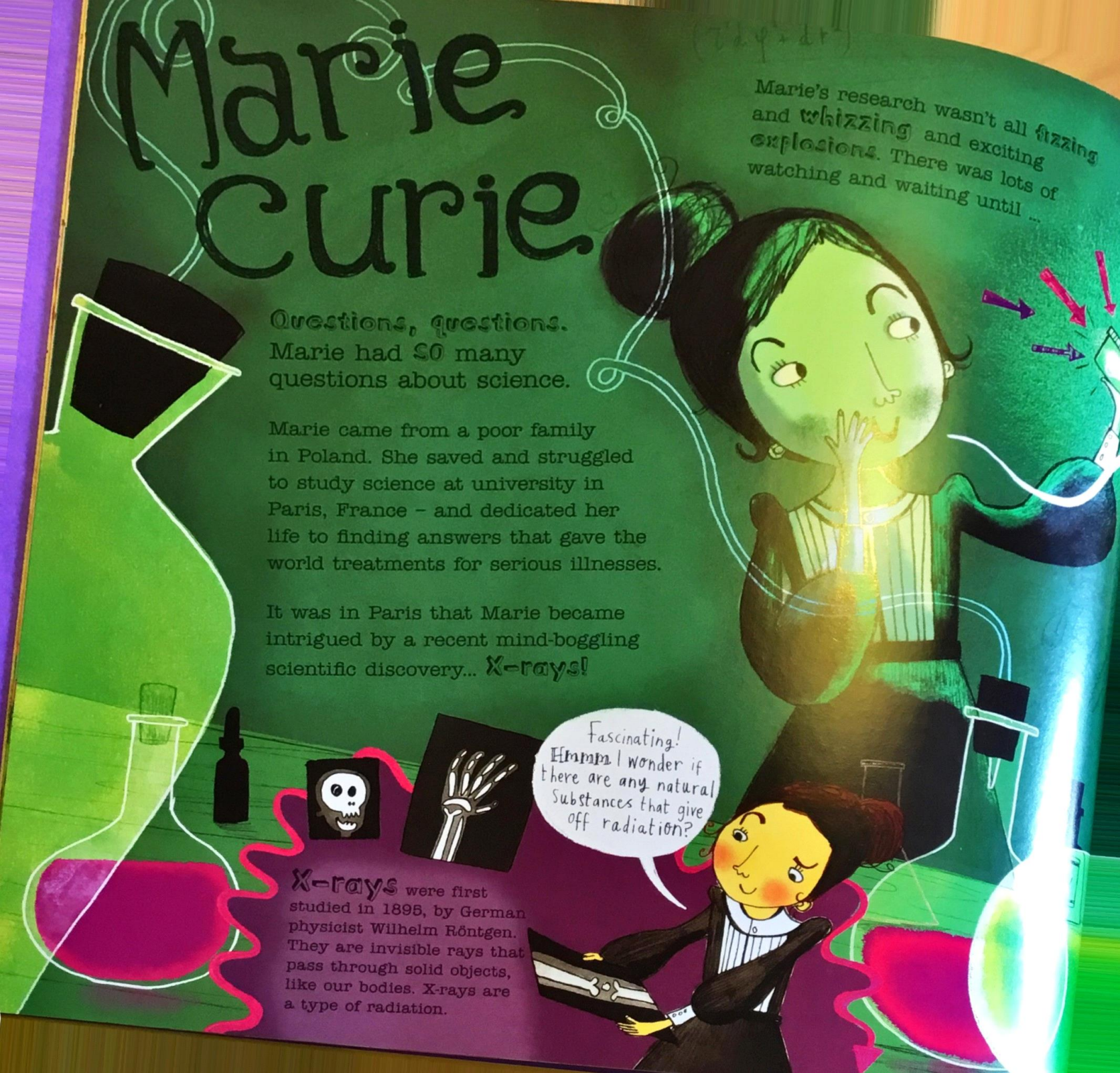
Marie came from a poor family in Poland. She saved and struggled to study science at university in Paris, France - and dedicated her life to finding answers that gave the world treatments for serious illnesses.

It was in Paris that Marie became intrigued by a recent mind-boggling scientific discovery... X-rays!

Marie's research wasn't all fizzing and whizzing and exciting explosions. There was lots of watching and waiting until ...

X-rays were first studied in 1895, by German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen. They are invisible rays that pass through solid objects, like our bodies. X-rays are a type of radiation.

Fascinating!
Hmmm I wonder if there are any natural substances that give off radiation?



WOW! I have discovered two brand new elements* — polonium and radium! Both glow and give off a strange invisible radiation. They are **RADIOACTIVE!** Hmm. I wonder if either of them is useful?

***Element:** The metals, minerals, liquids and gases that the world is made up of. Finding a new one is BIG news!

***RADIOACTIVE:** Marie said that substances that give off radiation were radioactive. (Marie Curie was the first person to use this term.)

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Po

Further experiments revealed that radium was a **wonder element** — it could be used to treat people with cancer.

In 1903 and 1911 Marie was given the world's top award for science — the Nobel Prize. She is the only woman to have won the prize twice.



RISKY RADIATION

Marie liked to sleep beside a gently glowing jar of radium but didn't realise this was dangerous!

Marie felt ill a lot of the time. We now know she was suffering from radiation poisoning.