

Women in Science

In the past, men had more chances than women to work in jobs that used science. Women had to work very hard to show they could also do these jobs.

These are some of the women in history who did amazing things in science.



Marie Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (a special science award). She found something called radium, which can be used to treat sick people. It is still used today.

"Marie Curie" by Unknown, Tekniska museet is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Katherine Johnson worked for NASA (the American space agency). She used her maths skills to work out a safe path for spacecraft to go around the Moon and return home to Earth.



Gladys West used satellites to make a map of the Earth. She used this to make the first GPS. GPS is a type of map which is used today in phones, cars and computers.

Jane Goodall was the first person to study chimpanzees in the wild. She learnt lots of things about them that no one else had ever known. She has helped to create places in the wild where chimps can live safely.



Questions

1. In the past, who had more chances to work in jobs that used science?

Tick one.

- men
- women
- children

2. What is a Nobel Prize? **Tick one.**

- a special geography award
- a special science award
- a special reading award

3. Where did Katherine Johnson work? **Tick one.**

- NASA
- a school
- a hospital

4. What did Gladys West use satellites for? **Tick one.**

- to see how far away space was
- to make a map of the Earth
- to speak to astronauts

5. What type of animal did Jane Goodall study? **Tick one.**

- elephants
- polar bears
- chimpanzees

Answers

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- polar bears
- chimpanzees**

Women in Science

In the past, men had more opportunities than women to work in science-related jobs. Women had to work very hard to prove that they could also do these jobs.

These are some of the women in history who did amazing things in science.



"Marie Curie" by Unknown, Tekniska museet is licensed under CC BY 2.0

In 1903, Marie Curie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (a special science award). She discovered something called radium, which can be used to treat very sick people. Marie also helped to make X-ray machines stronger and more accurate.

Katherine Johnson worked for NASA (the American space agency). She helped them to solve difficult maths problems. She used her maths skills to work out a path for spacecraft to go around the Moon and return to Earth. Because of Katherine, astronauts landed on the Moon!



Gladys West used satellites (spacecraft that collect information) to make a map of the Earth. She used this to develop the first GPS (Global Positioning System). This is a type of map which is used today in phones, cars and computers.



Jane Goodall was the first person to study chimpanzees in the wild. She learnt lots of things about them that no one else had ever known, such as what they ate. She has helped to create safe places in the wild where chimpanzees are protected from hunters.



Questions

1. What did women have to do to prove that they could do science-related jobs? **Tick one.**

- read lots of books
- write a letter
- work very hard

2. What did Marie Curie win in 1903?

3. Draw **three** lines to match each scientist with their achievement. The first one has been done for you.

Gladys West	studied chimpanzees
Katherine Johnson	discovered radium
Jane Goodall	developed the first GPS
Marie Curie	helped astronauts to land on the Moon

A line is drawn from the dot on the right of 'Gladys West' to the dot on the left of 'developed the first GPS'.

4. Who did Katherine Johnson work for?

5. Fill in the missing word.

Gladys West used satellites to make a map of _____.

her home

the Earth

the Moon

Answers

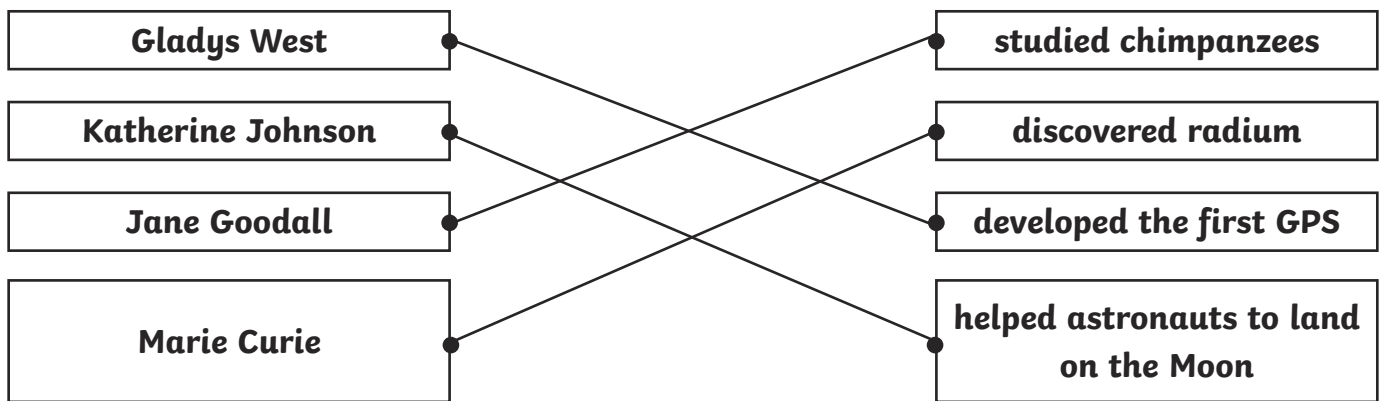
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a Nobel Prize / a special science award

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4. Who did Katherine Johnson work for?

NASA / the American space agency

5. Fill in the missing word.

Gladys West used satellites to make a map of **the Earth**.

Women in Science

In the past, men had more opportunities than women to study science and work in science-related jobs. Women had to work incredibly hard to prove that they could also do these jobs.

Women have made many incredible contributions to science throughout history. Read on to find out more about some of these inspiring women



Mary Anning was a palaeontologist (a scientist who studies creatures that lived a long time ago). When she was young, she would look for fossils on the beach. She was the first person to uncover fossils of some animals that had never been seen before, including a plesiosaur and a pterodactyl.

In 1903, Marie Curie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (a special science award). In 1911, she won another Nobel Prize when she discovered radium. Marie realised that radium could be used to treat people who were very ill. She also helped to make X-ray machines stronger and more accurate.



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Katherine Johnson worked for NASA. She helped them to solve difficult maths problems as a 'human computer'. She used her knowledge of geometry (a type of maths) to plot a route for spacecraft to go around the Moon and return to Earth. Because of Katherine, astronauts landed on the Moon!

Gladys West worked for the navy in America. She used satellites (spacecraft that collect information) to map the shape of the Earth. Gladys used this to develop the first GPS (Global Positioning System). This is a mapping system which is used today in phones, cars and computers.



Tu Youyou decided she wanted to study medicine to find cures for diseases. Tu was in charge of a team trying to find a cure for malaria (a disease spread by mosquitoes in tropical countries). She used wormwood (an ancient Chinese ingredient) to treat herself and 21 other patients. They all recovered.

Jane Goodall is a primatologist (a scientist who studies monkeys, apes and humans). She was the first person to study chimpanzees in the wild. She studied their behaviour and discovered that they have emotions and use tools. She has helped to create sanctuaries where chimpanzees are safe and protected from hunters.



Now, more women than ever are working in science-related jobs and helping to change the world. These women are becoming mathematicians, engineers, medical scientists, astronauts, computer scientists and more!

Questions

1. What did Mary Anning look for? **Tick one.**

- birds
- stars
- fossils

2. Name **one** thing that Marie Curie did.

3. Find and copy a **verb** that means the same as '**found**'.

4. Draw **four** lines to match each word with its meaning.

knowledge	grow or become more advanced
develop	learn about a particular subject or thing
cure	facts and skills learnt through education and experience
study	wipe out a disease

5. What is a primatologist?

6. Do you think it is important for women to work in science? Why?

Answers

1. What did Mary Anning look for? **Tick one.**

- birds
 stars
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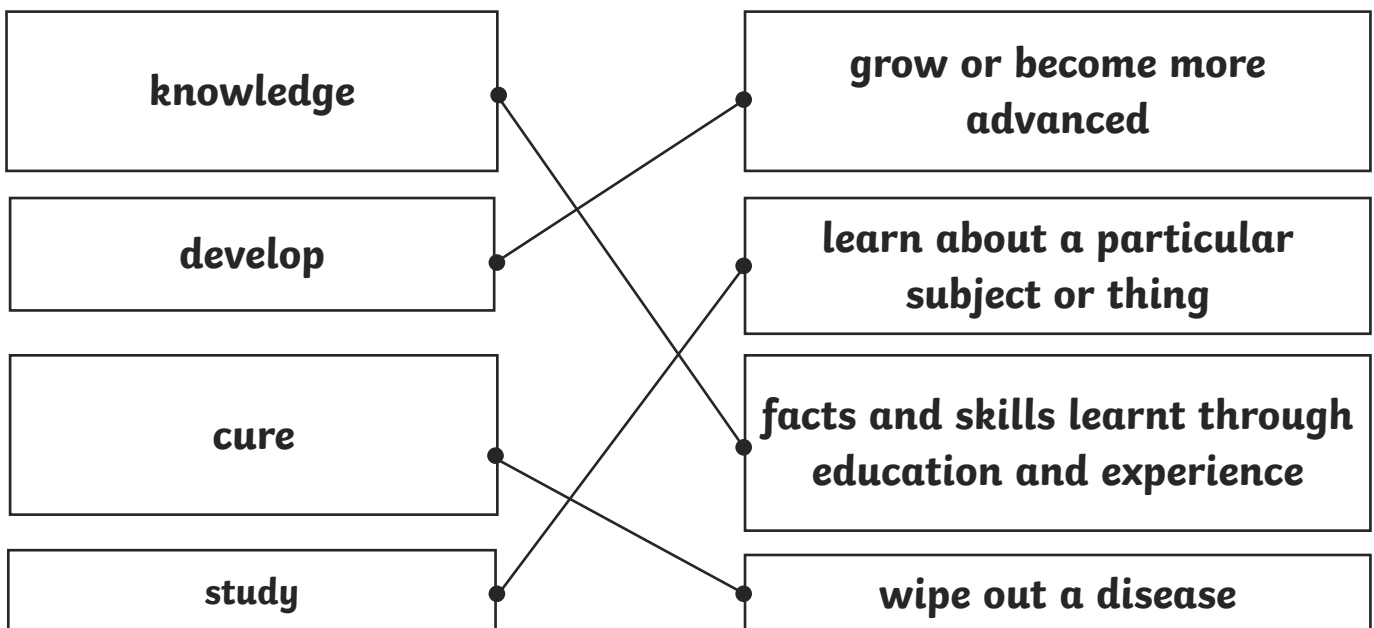
2. Name one thing that Marie Curie did.

Any from the following: won a Nobel Prize/science award; discovered radium; helped to treat people who were very ill; made X-ray machines stronger and more accurate.

3. Find and copy a verb that means the same as 'found'.

discovered

4. Draw **four** lines to match each word with its meaning.



5. What is a primatologist?

a scientist who studies monkeys, apes and humans

6. Do you think it is important for women to work in science? Why?

Children's own responses with justification.