

Entrance Gallery

Marie Curie



Marie Curie was a Polish scientist, famous for her work on radiation. Her discoveries led to important changes in treating people ill with cancer and in the use of X-rays. She won the Nobel Prize (a prize awarded to the world's best scientists) not once but twice!

Find this medal showing Marie Curie (27738)

Medals were often made to remember great people from the past or were sometimes given as prizes in competitions.

Who will you choose to put in your medal design?



Draw your design here



Women in this Trail

Mariam al-Astrulabi

Astrolabe maker from Syria thought to live in the 900's.

Caroline Herschel (1730-1848)

Astronomer who discovered 6 new comets. First woman to receive a Gold Medal from the Royal Astronomical Society.

Ada Lovelace (1815-1852)

English mathematician, often described as the person who invented computer programming.

Elizabeth Anne Hippilsey (died 1843, birth date not known)

Chemist who had her own laboratory in her country house in Somerset.

Mary Senex

Seller of maps and globes. Ran the family business as a widow between 1740 and 1755 in London.

Marie Curie (1867-1934)

physicist and chemist best known for her work on radiation. First person to win the Nobel Prize twice.

Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin (1910-1994)

chemist who developed a way of looking at the structure of molecules called X-Ray crystallography. Won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1964.

ANSWERS

Q1 See Map

Q2 a, b and c are all true!

Q3 Although many people think Caroline Herschel was the first woman to discover a comet, in fact Maria Kirch, a German astronomer discovered a comet in the early 1700's. She is often overlooked because her husband claimed that he had discovered it, until he later admitted that it had been Maria. a is false. Although many people think Caroline (insert rest of this sentence)... b is true.

c is false. In fact Caroline discovered 6 comets!

Q4 The penicillin is yellow. It was often known as 'yellow magic' because of the way it made sick patients better.

Q5 Lady Hippisley's husband, Sir John, has been given a potion which has made him fart (you can see the gas coming from under his coat)!



MUSEUM of the HISTORY of SCIENCE

FAMILY TRAIL



Women and Science

Women have been involved in science for thousands of years as mathematicians, star-gazers, instrument makers and more.

Discover objects linked to many of these women on this museum family trail.



Top Floor

Mariam al-Astrulabi

Astrolabes are maps of the stars that were used in many different ways by scientists and star-gazers for over a thousand years.

Find this astrolabe. It was made in Syria in the 800's. Women, as well as men, were known as astrolabe-makers. (47632)



Mariam al-Astrulabi lived in Aleppo around 100 years after this astrolabe was made. Her customers included important people like the Emir of Aleppo. No astrolabes have survived with her name on, but we know about her because she was written about not long after she died.

Q1

Look at the map in the case. Can you find Aleppo, Mariam's home city, on there?

Ada Lovelace

Ada is often thought of as the world's first coder! She worked with a man called Charles Babbage on his inventions, which were early types of mechanical computers.



From The New York Public Library

Find these parts from Charles Babbage's Difference Engine (94229).

Q2

Which of these is true:

- a) Ada's mother wanted her to study maths so that she didn't turn out like her wild father, the famous poet, Lord Byron!
- b) The 'Goth Girl' series of books by Chris Riddel are inspired by Ada Lovelace.
- c) The US Army named their computing language 'Ada' after Ada Lovelace.



Top of the Staircase

Caroline Herschel



Caroline was an astronomer and was the first woman to be asked to join the Royal Astronomical Society. She didn't get as much education as her brothers because she was a girl.

Find this telescope (17971). The telescope was made by Caroline's brother, William, who is famous for discovering the planet Uranus.

Q3

True or false?

- a) She was the first woman to discover a comet
- b) She was the first woman known to be paid for her scientific work
- c) She discovered 3 comets in total



Basement

Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin

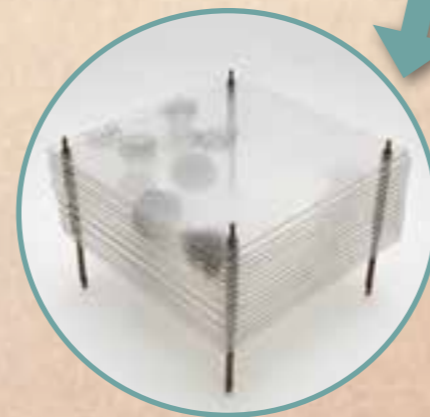


Dorothy worked in crystallography (the study of how atoms are arranged in crystals). She won the Nobel Prize for chemistry.

Q4

Spot the small bottles of penicillin, the medicine she worked on. What colour is the penicillin?

Find this model showing the structure of penicillin (a medicine that kills harmful bacteria) (17631)



This is a 3D picture of one of the salt crystals in penicillin, made by Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin. Each group of rings in this picture represents an atom. Atoms are the basic building blocks of all matter.

Basement

Mary Senex

Mary Senex took over her husband's business on his death and ran it for 15 years.

People from as far away as America bought her globes and maps. Benjamin Franklin, the scientist and politician was one of her customers.

Find this globe (28920)



Elizabeth Anne Hippisley



Lady Hippisley had her own laboratory in her country house.

Find this piece of science equipment called a 'Pneumatic Trough' (40583)



This wooden trough was used in chemistry experiments to collect gases.

This print from 1802 shows Lady Hippisley's husband taking part in a public chemistry experiment. Women weren't allowed to go to university but could attend some lectures. (11539)

Q5 What do you think is happening in this picture?

