

Polish flag

On November 7, 1867, the Skłodowski family of Poland celebrates the birth of their fifth child, Maria. Unbeknownst to them, she'll one day become the world-famous scientist, Marie Curie.

Warsaw, capital of Poland

As a child growing up in Russian-occupied Poland, all of Maria's classes are taught in Russian. Not only is she forbidden from speaking Polish, but as a female, she's also forbidden from attending university. Fortunately for Marie, she secretly attends Polish lessons through Flying University, in the capital of Warsaw. In order to conceal these lessons from the Russian government, the university constantly changes its location.

Erlenmeyer flask (measuring flask)

Round flask

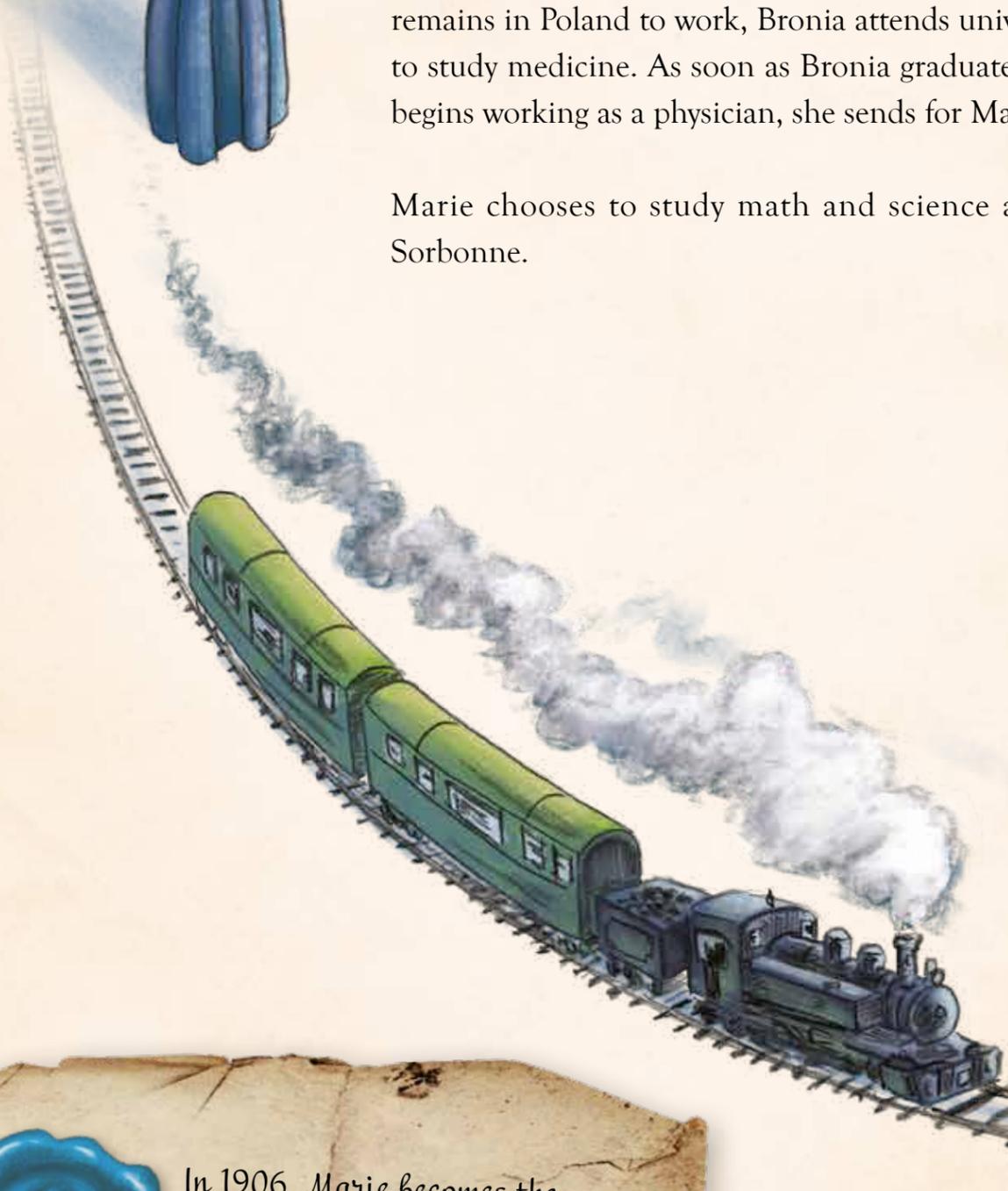
Surnames in Poland are different for boys and girls. While Maria's father was known as Władysław Skłodowski, she was called Maria Skłodowska.





Marie dreams of studying at a university. When she and her older sister, Bronia, learn that the University of Paris (the Sorbonne) in France is accepting female students, they orchestrate a plan. While Marie remains in Poland to work, Bronia attends university to study medicine. As soon as Bronia graduates and begins working as a physician, she sends for Marie.

Marie chooses to study math and science at the Sorbonne.



In 1906, Marie becomes the first female professor at the University of Paris.



Do you find magnets to be mysterious—how they can move other objects without ever touching them? They almost seem magical!

Upon Marie's graduation in 1893, she earns a degree in chemistry and physics. One year later, she earns another degree in mathematics. Because of her excellent grades, she's invited to begin a research project on magnetism—a topic few people understand. Marie is eager to explore the mysterious, invisible forces at work in our world.

