

## Introduction

This is a play about the history of radioactivity, and how we discovered its uses and dangers. It was written for pupils aged 14-16 years, to cover ideas and evidence. Drama is very popular with pupils and can be used to stimulate discussion and debate. The play is in six scenes, following the story chronologically, from the discovery of radioactivity, through Marie Curie's research and the atomic bomb, to the modern use in treating cancer.

## Running the activities

The first page has an introductory opinion question to get pupils involved.

Pupils can then be split into groups, and given the script of one scene each to rehearse. The overview page indicates how many parts are needed for each scene/group. Some parts are more substantial than others, and these could be given to more confident pupils. There is also a narrator, who could be the teacher or a pupil. Excluding the narrator there are 25 roles.

The preparation may take approximately 40 minutes, and the performances of the six scenes up to 30minutes. Little teacher intervention during rehearsals proved to be necessary during the trialling of the play. The play can be performed more easily in the science laboratory, if the furniture is moved to create space.

The introductory page has review questions to help pupils reflect on the learning objectives, for class use, for homework or discussion

## More ideas

- Find an open space or drama theatre to perform the play.
- Ask pupils to find out about other uses for radioactivity, or how people who work in the nuclear industry protect themselves from it.

## Learning outcomes

### Ideas and evidence

- How ideas about the dangers of using radioactive materials developed.
- How context affects whether or not ideas are accepted.

### Prior learning

A basic understanding of radiation may help.

### Where the activity fits in

KS4 Radiation and health

### Skills

Communication, literacy, working with others.