

Discussion Question Answer Key Leona Woods Marshall Libby

- 1. In what subject did Leona Woods Marshall Libby earn her Ph.D.? Where was her first job after graduation?**
Spectroscopy. She was immediately hired to work with Fermi's group at the Chicago Met Lab.
- 2. What was her job at the nuclear pile in Chicago?**
To measure neutron fluxes, to calibrate the detectors.
- 3. How did her work at Hanford compare to that of her first husband, John Marshall?**
They both did the same exact work, on different shifts, monitoring the fledgling reactor.
- 4. What was her opinion on the dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?**
She claimed to have no regrets about the bombs or working on them. She felt dropping the bombs was the only right action, and that it saved American lives (like her brother-in-law).
- 5. Where did she find work after World War II?**
First, she returned to the University of Chicago at Fermi's Institute for Nuclear Studies. In 1954 she moved to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Then, she went to Brookhaven National Laboratory. In 1960 she was hired by New York University. By 1966, she had moved to the University of Colorado. In 1973 she joined the faculty at UCLA.
- 6. At UCLA, what was her position? What did she research while there?**
"Visiting Professor of Environmental Studies and Engineering." She researched methods of using tree rings to measure historical changes in rainfall and temperature (dendrochronology) through isotopes.
- 7. What was the subject of her last published paper?**
Quasi-stellar objects.
- 8. Describe the subject of her research contracts that used Atomic Energy Commission funding.**
High-energy nuclear research.