



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2025 Volume I: Art, Design, and Biology

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## **El Cuerpo Humano: Arte, Imagen, y Ciencia**

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In this multimodal unit designed for a World Language class, I will focus on providing my Spanish students with an engaging and enriching learning experience in which they will explore the human body through art, imagery, and science. Over a span of four weeks, my students will engage in the art and practice of close looking to develop their observation, analysis, and interpretation skills all while building foundational target language proficiency skills. They will examine representations of the human body in Mesoamerican sculpture, specifically the series *Las Señoras Bonitas*. This series will provide my students with a powerful indigenous perspective on body and identity. My novice Spanish learners will investigate how the human body has been represented, celebrated, or critiqued over time through the visual arts of Spain and Latin America. Works of art to be studied include *Las Meninas* by Diego Velázquez, *Los Caprichos* by Francisco de Goya, *Les Femmes d'Alger* by Paul Gauguin, *Les Femmes d'Alger* by Pablo Picasso, *Las Dos Fridas* by Frida Kahlo, *La Familia Presidencial* by Fernando Botero, and a mural by José Clemente Orozco. These works serve as cultural texts, allowing my learners to compare and contrast artistic representations of the human body across historical periods, cultural contexts, and perspectives.

(Developed for Spanish, grades 6-8; recommended for Spanish and Art, grades 6-10)

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