

Nuestra historia: Puentes Pacing Guide

In *Nuestra historia: Puentes*, you will find culturally relevant and heartfelt stories to encourage your students to reflect on their own lives and think about the world around them. This is a multi-purpose curriculum that can serve as an exploratory first encounter with the Spanish language, a continuation of an elementary program, or a rigorous means to earning high school credit in middle school. Because this curriculum is designed for such a wide audience with varying maturity levels and proficiency goals, you will see considerable variation in the difficulty of texts throughout each unit. This allows you to level the content up or down according to your students' needs.

Each unit features four short stories and two longer stories carefully written to introduce both high-frequency and high-interest structures. We have included stories that highlight some of the most compelling and beautiful aspects of the Spanish-speaking world while instilling valuable insight into the practices and perspectives of target cultures. Our hope is that each story will not only teach students the language, but also provide you, as the teacher, a springboard for some interesting conversations in class. Each story includes varying levels of comprehension activities that provide repeated exposure to targeted structures in novel ways. Each activity is designed to prompt students to think critically about the text and demonstrate their comprehension through various modes of communication. Teacher tips for presenting target structures, such as Total Physical Response (TPR®) methods and Personalized Questions and Answers (PQAs), are provided to support teachers who are new to the best practices of teaching with comprehensible input. Special attention is also given to storyasking scripts so that you can involve your students in taking ownership of their learning as much as possible.

Profiles

In this guide, you will find four options for pacing the material of *Nuestra historia: Puentes*. Because *Puentes* replicates the same convenient structure in all units, you can apply one of these basic frameworks to all units within the title. This pacing is meant to be an example of what a teacher *could* do, not an example of what a teacher *should* do. You know your students' needs and your district's expectations best, and *Puentes* gives you all the tools you need to make the content your own. Just choose the profile that best fits your teaching situation and dive in!

Program	Grade(s)	Units Completed	Unit Duration	Focus
Three years	6-8	3 per year	12 weeks	A deep dive into most or all unit content that progresses in complexity each year.
Two years (sequential)	7-8	4-5 per year	9 weeks	A comprehensive approach that uses the

				majority of the resources with the flexibility to tailor the rigor of materials used from one year to the next.
Two years (vertically-aligned)	6-7 or 7-8	8 per year	4-5 weeks	An exploratory overview of target structures and class-created stories the first year, followed by an academic study of unit content the second year.
One year	8	7-8 per year	4.5-6 weeks	An intensive study of stories and culture for students planning to receive high school credit or to test out of Spanish 1.

Super 7 Pre-Unit

Nuestra historia: Puentes comes with an optional pre-unit that focuses entirely on building routines and relationships in the classroom through the use of the Super 7 verbs. While this pre-unit is not included in any of the pacing models, we encourage you to dedicate some time at the beginning of the school year to introducing students to each other and the target language if your yearly schedule allows. While this may mean that you have to put later units of the curriculum off to subsequent years, your students will benefit greatly from the foundation of linguistic skills and classroom rapport that this pre-unit provides.

Leveling Content Up and Down

Students do an incredible amount of growing during their middle school years. What might be quite challenging for your sixth-grade students will become much easier by their eighth-grade year. You can adjust the difficulty of the content in *Puentes* to match your students' current levels of proficiency. Here are some ways that you can use *Puentes* to meet your students exactly where they are:

Content	Leveled Down	Leveled Up
Story Scripts	Short story scripts	Long story scripts
Culture Embedded Readings	Version A	Versions B and C
Culture Lesson	Slideshow reading	Full-page reading
Story Activities	Complete as a class	Assign as homework
Cultura Breve	Read with students	Assign as independent work
“Visitemos” Country Pages	English pop-up captions	Spanish captions

Flexibility

As you look over this pacing guide, keep in mind that our pacing and timing for these tasks is approximate and may need to be adapted for different contexts. Of course, you should be prepared to adapt your instruction to spend more time on topics that your students really connect with and move on more quickly when your students' interest is low. Remember that the main goal is to provide compelling, Comprehensible Input. If you are talking with your students—about a story, a culture, or their personal lives—and your students are engaged, then they are acquiring language! A successful CI program shouldn't fit into neat boxes, so don't let an ideal schedule prevent you from exploring further. Take some time to discover what might best suit your students' needs. Take advantage of the plentiful resources at your fingertips, or use the Voces Editor to create activities of your own. Again, the goal of Comprehensible Input is to engage and connect with your students in such a way that they acquire language subconsciously. As long as they are engaged and you are delivering Comprehensible Input, do

not worry too much about how fast or slow you're moving in the curriculum. Ultimately, *Nuestra historia: Puentes* is meant to be a responsive, student-driven curriculum.

For more information on how to edit material or for more ideas on how to implement the curriculum, call 800-848-0256 or email info@vocesdigital.com.

Profile 1: Three-year program

This profile is for districts that include three years of world language instruction prior to high school level 1. Class periods in such a program tend to be of considerably shorter duration than typical high school classes. The wide variety of resources and embedded readings will allow teachers to adjust the complexity of the material used as students mature and become more proficient in the target language. Students in the first year may spend more time on Total Physical Response, Personal Questions and Answers (PQA), and class-created stories, while students in the third year may spend more time reading unit stories and participating in target-language discussions of cultural topics. This approach can also easily leave time for reading a class novel or incorporating the Super 7 unit, if desired. Teachers in three-year middle school programs will maximize most or all content in every unit of *Puentes* in a sequential order, completing three units per year.

Sample Unit Pacing		
Profile: Three-year program		12 weeks per unit
Section	Description	Duration
Introductory Sections	Can-Do Pre-Assessment Essential Question Connection Exploration of countries: read all pop-up captions, use survey for class discussion	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 1: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 1: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with activities from the CI Teacher Toolkit Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	3-4 days
<i>Historieta 1: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 1: In-depth Activities</i> ¹	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista</i> video	1-3 days
<i>Historieta 2: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	2-3 days

¹ Note: Not every *historieta* has the same in-depth activities associated with it. Durations are given as estimates only and will vary from story to story.

<i>Historieta 2: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with activities from the CI Teacher Toolkit Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	3-4 days
<i>Historieta 2: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 2: In-depth Activities</i>	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista</i> video	1-3 days
<i>Historia larga 1</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	1-2 days
<i>Historieta 3: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 3: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with activities from the CI Teacher Toolkit Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	3-4 days
<i>Historieta 3: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 3: In-depth Activities</i>	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista</i> video	1-3 days
<i>Historieta 4: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 4: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with activities from the CI Teacher Toolkit Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	3-4 days
<i>Historieta 4: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days

<i>Historieta 4: In-depth Activities</i>	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista video</i>	1-3 days
<i>Historia larga 2: Used for formative assessment</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	1-2 days
<i>Cultura</i>	Embedded Readings <i>Lección Cultural</i>	5-6 days
<i>¡Extra! ¡Extra!</i>	<i>El Mundo en Fotos</i> <i>Panorama</i>	2-3 days
End of Unit	Can-Do Checklist End-of-Unit Review Original Story Assessment	1-2 days
Assessment	Integrated Performance Assessment or Traditional Unit Assessment	2-4 days, depending on the assessment

Profile 2: Two-year program (sequential)

This profile is for districts that include two years of world language instruction prior to high school level 1. Typically, class periods in such a program tend to be of somewhat shorter duration than typical high school classes. To accommodate differences in students' maturity and/or proficiency levels from one year to the next, teachers may choose to emphasize student-centered activities, such as Total Physical Response, Personal Questions and Answers, and class-created stories, the first year and reading-focused activities, such as unit stories and culture lessons, the second year. Teachers in two-year middle school programs will maximize the majority of content in every unit of *Puentes* in a sequential order, completing four or five units per year. This model provides ample opportunity for students to read a class novel or work with the Super 7 Pre-unit the year that they complete four units.

Sample Unit Pacing		
Profile: 2-year program (sequential)		9 weeks per unit
Section	Description	Duration
Introductory Sections	Can-Do Pre-Assessment Essential Question Connection Exploration of countries: Spanish captions only	1 day
<i>Historieta 1: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	2 days
<i>Historieta 1: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	2 days
<i>Historieta 1: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 1: In-depth Activities</i> ²	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista</i> video	1-2 days
<i>Historieta 2: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	2 days
<i>Historieta 2: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	2 days

² Note: Not every *historieta* has the same in-depth activities associated with it. Durations are given as estimates only and will vary from story to story.

<i>Historieta 2: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 2: In-depth Activities</i>	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista video</i>	1-2 days
<i>Historia larga 1: Used for formative assessment</i>	Story and activities	1 day
<i>Historieta 3: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	2 days
<i>Historieta 3: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	2 days
<i>Historieta 3: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 3: In-depth Activities</i>	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista video</i>	1-2 days
<i>Historieta 4: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	2 days
<i>Historieta 4: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	2 days
<i>Historieta 4: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 4: In-depth Activities</i>	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista video</i>	1-2 days
<i>Historia larga 2: Used for formative assessment</i>	Story and activities	1 day
<i>Cultura</i>	Embedded Readings <i>Lección Cultural</i>	5 days

<i>¡Extra! ¡Extra!</i>	<i>El Mundo en Fotos Panorama</i> (choose which work best for your students)	1 day
End of Unit	Can-Do Checklist End-of-Unit Review Original Story Assessment	1 day
Assessment	Integrated Performance Assessment or Traditional Unit Assessment	1-3 days, depending on assessment choice

Profile 3: Two-year Program (vertically-aligned)

This model is ideal for vertical alignment, where both years are linked in content. The first year will focus on basic target structures, class-created stories, and simple cultural readings. The second year will introduce students to the *historietas* and *historias largas* in *Puentes* while going into greater depth with grammar, authentic tasks, and culture. In this case, *Nuestra historia: Puentes* provides a framework of instruction that teachers will want to reinforce with supplementary authentic resources found on the internet, more “traditional” vocabulary, and explorations of other verb tenses. Teachers using this plan will complete the curriculum through unit 8 only.

Sample Unit Pacing: Year 1		
Profile: Two-year program (vertically aligned)		4-5 weeks per unit
Section	Description	Duration
Introductory Sections	Can-Do Pre-Assessment Essential Question Connection Exploration of countries: Pop-up English captions only	1 day
<i>Historieta 1: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> (slides only) <i>Preguntas personales</i> (slides only)	1 day
<i>Historieta 1: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with activities from the CI Teacher Toolkit Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	3 days
<i>Historieta 1: Cultura breve</i>	Read the selection with students Supplement with authentic resources Assign page to students	1 day
<i>Historieta 2: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> (slides only) <i>Preguntas personales</i> (slides only)	1 day
<i>Historieta 2: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with activities from the CI Teacher Toolkit Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	3 days
<i>Historieta 2: Cultura breve</i>	Read the selection with students Supplement with authentic resources Assign page to students	1 day

<i>Historieta 3: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> (slides only) <i>Preguntas personales</i> (slides only)	1 day
<i>Historieta 3: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with activities from the CI Teacher Toolkit Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	3 days
<i>Historieta 3: Cultura breve</i>	Read the selection with students Supplement with authentic resources Assign page to students	1 day
<i>Historieta 4: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> (slides only) <i>Preguntas personales</i> (slides only)	1 day
<i>Historieta 4: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with activities from the CI Teacher Toolkit Assign <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	3 days
<i>Historieta 4: Cultura breve</i>	Read the selection with students Supplement with authentic resources Assign page to students	1 day
<i>Cultura</i>	Embedded Readings (Version A only) with supplemental authentic resources	2-3 days
<i>¡Extra! ¡Extra!</i> End of Unit	<i>Panorama</i> <i>El Mundo en Fotos</i> Can-Do Checklist End-of-Unit Review Original Story Assessment	As needed
Assessment	<i>Evaluación de la Unidad</i> (all sections except culture)	1 day

Sample Unit Pacing: Year 2		
Profile: 2-year program (vertically aligned)		4-5 weeks per unit
Section	Description	Duration
Introductory Sections	Can-Do Pre-Assessment	1 day

	Essential Question Connection Exploration of countries: Spanish captions and comprehension activities	
<i>Historieta 1: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i> Introduce thematic vocabulary or other verb tenses as needed Assign student activities	1-2 days
<i>Historieta 1: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2 days
<i>Historieta 1: In-depth activities</i> ³	<i>Nota de gramática</i> Authentic communication activity	As needed/applicable
<i>Historieta 2: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i> Introduce thematic vocabulary or other verb tenses as needed Assign student activities	1-2 days
<i>Historieta 2: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2 days
<i>Historieta 2: In-depth activities</i>	<i>Nota de gramática</i> Authentic communication activity	As needed/applicable
<i>Historia larga 1: Formative assessment</i>	Story and activities	1 day
<i>Historieta 3: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i> Introduce thematic vocabulary or other verb tenses as needed Assign student activities	1-2 days
<i>Historieta 3: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2 days
<i>Historieta 3: In-depth activities</i>	<i>Nota de gramática</i> Authentic communication activity	As needed/applicable
<i>Historieta 4: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i> Introduce thematic vocabulary or other	1-2 days

³ Note: Not every *historieta* has the same in-depth activities associated with it. Durations are given as estimates only and will vary from story to story.

	verb tenses as needed Assign student activities	
<i>Historieta 4: Puentes</i> Story	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2 days
<i>Historieta 4: In-depth</i> activities	<i>Nota de gramática</i> Authentic communication activity	As needed/applicable
<i>Historia larga 2: Used for</i> formative assessment	Story and activities	1 day
<i>Cultura</i>	Embedded Readings (versions B or C) <i>Lección Cultural</i>	3-4 days
Assessment	Integrated Performance Assessment	1-2 days

Profile 4: One-year program

Some districts choose to have students complete their first year of world language study prior to entering high school. *Nuestra historia: Puentes* offers a great middle-school-friendly alternative for students to gain the skills necessary to bypass *Nuestra historia 1* and continue with *Nuestra historia 2* when they enter high school. While there is not a direct correlation between the target structures presented in *Puentes* and those introduced in *Nuestra historia 1*, there is enough overlap between them that students who successfully complete the *Puentes* curriculum will have the vocabulary base and linguistic resilience necessary to succeed in second-year Spanish. Teachers using *Puentes* in a one-year program should expect to complete only seven or eight of the units.

Sample Unit Pacing		
Profile: One-year program (High School equivalent)		4.5-6 weeks per unit
Section	Description	Duration
Introductory Sections	Can-Do Pre-Assessment Essential Question Connection Exploration of countries: Spanish subtitles only	1 day
<i>Historieta 1: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	1 day
<i>Historieta 1: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	1 day
<i>Historieta 1: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 2: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	1 day
<i>Historieta 2: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	1 day
<i>Historieta 2: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historia larga 1: Used for formative assessment</i>	Story and activities	1 day
<i>Historieta 3: Presenting</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i>	1 day

the Vocabulary	<i>Preguntas personales</i>	
<i>Historieta 3: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	1 day
<i>Historieta 3: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historieta 4: Presenting the Vocabulary</i>	<i>Vocabulario importante</i> <i>Preguntas personales</i>	1 day
<i>Historieta 4: Class Story</i>	Ask a class story Read the class story Review with <i>La historia de la clase</i> page	1 day
<i>Historieta 4: Puentes Story</i>	Read and dramatize story Assign activities	2-3 days
<i>Historietas 1-4: In-depth Activities</i> ⁴	<i>Nota de gramática</i> <i>Cultura breve</i> Authentic communication activity <i>Entrevista</i> video	1-2 days
<i>Historia larga 2: Used for formative assessment</i>	Story and activities	1 day
<i>Cultura</i>	Embedded Readings <i>Lección Cultural</i>	4-5 days
Assessment	Integrated Performance Assessment or Traditional Unit Assessment	1-2 days, depending on assessment choice

⁴ Note: Not every *historieta* has the same in-depth activities associated with it. You will likely want to intersperse these activities with other *historieta* activities. Since these activities vary from story to story, we present them all together here to show that they could affect your planning by 1-2 days.