Frida Kahlo
Mexican artist
I. Introduction

- July 6, 1907 – July 13, 1954
- born Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderón
- internationally popular Mexican painter.
influenced by indigenous cultures of Mexico and European influences including Realism, Symbolism, and Surrealism.

Many of her works are self-portraits that symbolically express her own pain and sexuality.

Kahlo was married to Mexican muralist Diego Rivera.
II. Life of Frida Kahlo

- Her father, Guillermo Kahlo (1872-1941), was born Carl Wilhelm Kahlo in Pforzheim, Germany.
Frida's mother, Matilde Calderón y González, was a devout Catholic of primarily indigenous, as well as Spanish descent.
Childhood

- Kahlo contracted polio at age six.
- Later in life she hid her withered leg with long, colorful skirts which became her trademark.
- Was accepted into a prestigious secondary school
- Witnessed the violence of the Mexican revolution 1919-1929
The Accident

- On September 17, 1925, Kahlo was riding in a bus when the vehicle collided with a trolley car.
- She suffered serious injuries - a broken spinal column, a broken pelvis, eleven fractures in her right leg, and a crushed and dislocated right foot.
- An iron handrail pierced her abdomen and her uterus, which seriously damaged her reproductive ability.
- She was only 18 years old.
17 de Septiembre de 1926 - FRIDA KAHLO (Accidente)
- Frida had several surgeries on her spine
- Was never able to give birth, though she wanted a child with her husband, Diego
- Had numerous miscarriages
Married Diego Rivera in 1929

Diego is Mexico’s most famous muralist

She was 22, he was 43

Marriage was rocky

Both had extramarital affairs
III. Career as a Painter

- Started painting in the hospital
- Painted mostly self-portraits
influenced by indigenous Mexican culture shown by her use of bright colors and dramatic symbolism

combined elements of the classic religious Mexican tradition with surrealist renderings

Kahlo's work was not widely recognized until decades after her death
- first solo exhibition in New York City in 1938
- enjoyed considerable success during the 1940s
- Now a cult figure found on purses, t-shirts, posters, etc.
- Several movies have been made about her life
often incorporated symbolic portrayals of physical and psychological wounds
Quotes by Frida

- Feet, what do I need you for when I have wings to fly?
- I love you more than my own skin.
- My painting carries with it the message of pain.
- Painting completed my life.
- There have been two great accidents in my life. One was the trolley, and the other was Diego. Diego was by far the worst.
- I am not sick, I am broken. But I am happy as long as I can paint.
I paint myself because I am often alone and I am the subject I know best.

I never painted dreams. I painted my own reality.

Painting completed my life.
Artwork
- **Memory.** 1937.
- Oil on metal.
Itzcuintli Dog with Me.

1938
Four Inhabitants of Mexico

1938
The Dream 1940
- **Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair**
- 1940
Thinking about Death, 1943
Self-Portrait as a Tehuana, 1943
Without Hope, 1945
The little deer, 1946