



## Unit 1 – Looking at ‘Las meninas’ by Velazquez

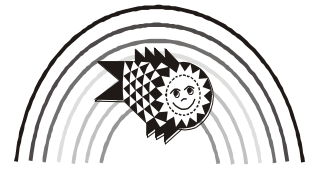
1. Fill the gaps about Velazquez’s history:

|       |         |          |        |         |
|-------|---------|----------|--------|---------|
| years | twenty  | portrait | family | painter |
| royal | helpful | Seville  | work   | lived   |

Diego Velazquez was born in (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the country of Spain. When he was about thirteen years old he was apprenticed to a (2) \_\_\_\_\_, Francisco Herrera, but the man was such a tyrant\* Diego only stayed with him for a year. He next went as an apprentice to Francisco Pacheco who was very kind and \_\_\_\_\_ to him. He worked for him five \_\_\_\_\_, then married Pacheco's daughter, Juana.

With his \_\_\_\_\_ and his father-in-law, Pacheco, he visited Madrid where he was asked to paint the \_\_\_\_\_ of King Philip IV of Spain who was 18 years old. The Spanish king was so pleased, he asked Velazquez to move to Madrid with his family and \_\_\_\_\_ exclusively for the \_\_\_\_\_ family. He was the favorite of the king's four painters. For the next forty years he and his family \_\_\_\_\_ with the king. Even his mother and father lived with them. He painted at least \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Tyrant** – Someone who has power over other people, and uses it cruelly or unfairly.



2. Translate this text into Spanish:

The "meninas" were the young daughters of noblemen's families who waited on the young princess who was called an "infanta". The young girl is serving the princess something in a cup. The artist with the brush in his hand is, of course, Velazquez. His special clothing shows he is a knight\*. If you look at the reflection in the mirror, you can see the king and queen who are apparently posing while the artist paints their picture.

A large rounded rectangular box containing ten horizontal lines for writing the translation.

\* **Knight** – (1) A man with a high rank in the past who was trained to fight while riding a horse. (2) A man who has received a knighthood and has the title 'Sir' before his name.

\* **Knighthood** - Title which is given to a man as an honour for achievement or for doing good things.



Internet task –  
What makes 'Las meninas' special?

2



3. Pay attention to the video and then answer the questions:

Looking at Velazquez with Kids

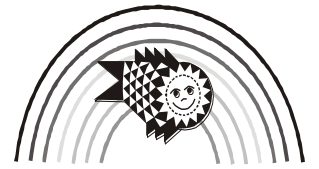
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx8-e6P\\_FHY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx8-e6P_FHY)

⊗ What does the boy say about the people of the painting?  
What are they doing?

⊗ Who is the little girl? What is her name? Who is her father?  
And her mother?

⊗ How old do the children think that the princess is?

⊗ Do they think that the princess is ugly or pretty?



Do Margarita's father and mother appear in the painting?  
Where?

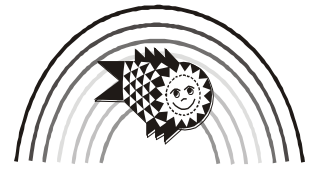
How many people are in this painting?

What is Velazquez doing?

In the video they say that the country of Spain is a  
 country.

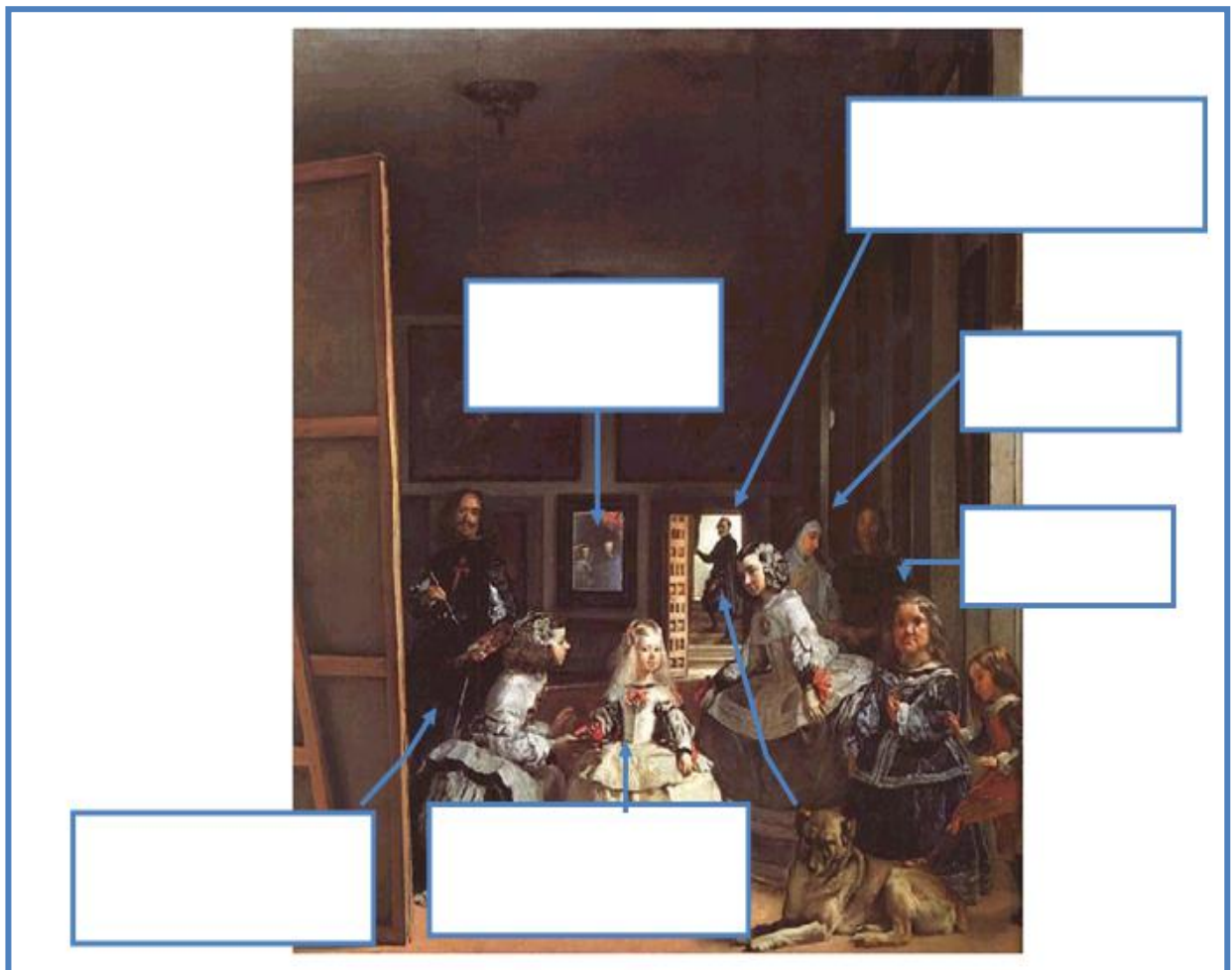
Is it true?

How many drawfs were in the royal court?



4. This picture is called 'Las meninas'. It was painted by a great Spanish artist called Diego Velazquez. One of the characters is Princess Margaret, who was the daughter of King Philip IV. Now guess, who is who?

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| The nun Marcela de Ulloa             | Diego Velazquez  |
| Infanta Margarita                    | King Philip IV of Spain and his second wife Mariana of Austria |
| Jose de Nieto the Queens Chamberlain | The dwarf Maribarbola  |





5. Match the words with its definitions.

1. **Royal**



– An important official who managed the house of a king or queen in the past.

2. **Chamberlain**



– An older woman in the past who went out with a young unmarried woman on social occasions and was responsible for her behavior.

3. **Chaperone**



– Someone who is a member of a group of religious women that live together in a convent.

4. **Wore**



– Something that you have to do because it is morally or legally right.

5. **Dwarf**



– Relating to or belonging to a king or queen.

6. **Duty**



– A group of people who travel with an important person.

7. **Maid**



– A person that has not continued to grow to the normal height because of a medical condition.

8. **Nun**

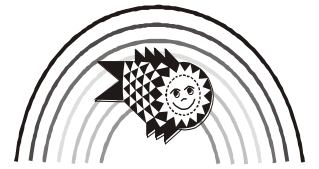


– A female servant, especially in a large house or hotel.

9. **Entourage**



– The past tense of wear.



6. Draw and colour in the figure of Princess Margaret in your drawing pad. You can use the style you prefer.

