



Yale-New Haven
Teachers Institute®

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
2019 Volume III: Human Centered Design of Biotechnology

How Our Skeleton Helps Us

Guide for Curriculum Unit 19.03.11
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Young students seem fascinated by how their bodies work. This unit serves as an introduction for young students to begin their fundamental understanding of human biology.

The focus in this six-week curriculum unit is for primary-grade scientists to build some conceptual knowledge of the human skeletal system. The use of inquiry allows students at all levels to learn in an inherently differentiated environment, learning new concepts and experiencing laboratory experiments and classroom demonstrations throughout this unit on how our *skeleton helps us*.

The learning begins with the primary mentor texts, the picture book, *The Skeleton Inside You* by Philip Balestrino and *Bones* by Stephen Krensky. Classroom activities include creating models of bones, viewing x-rays, brainstorming design solutions for damaged or missing bones, measuring bones and determining structure features and taking a field trip to the local museum to view and draw skeletons. Students will maintain a science journal throughout the unit.

(Developed for Science/STEAM, grade K; recommended for Science/STEM/STEAM, grades K-2)

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