All About
Henri Matisse

1869 – 1954

Learning Objective To create some art in the style of Matisse	
Success Criteria	Self-Assessment
• To learn some facts about Matisse	
• I know the names of some of his paintings	
• I can create a collage in the style of Matisse's later period	

Who Was Henri Matisse?

Henri Matisse was a French artist known for his use of colour and shape. When he was young, he did lots of paintings but as he grew older he began to make striking collages, which are pictures made by using cut out bits of paper.

Here are some facts about him:

He was born in
1869, in northern France.

He studied law
and became a lawyer.

He went to school in Paris.

Some of his work
has sold for over £15 million.

Henri Matisse became an artist after his mother bought him a set of paints when he was poorly, to keep him entertained.

Fauvism

Henri Matisse's early paintings were very exciting and were full of lots of different colours. This style was very different to the work of most artists at the time.

One art critic called Matisse and others who painted like him 'fauves'. This is French for 'wild beasts'. The insult started the beginning of Fauvism, a style of painting Matisse is remembered for.

'Woman With a Hat', was painted in 1905. You can also view it **here**.
Can you see all the different colours the artist has used?

The Colour Red

The painting 'The Dessert: Harmony in Red', which you can also view **here**, was painted over 100 years ago, in 1908.

It was originally called 'Harmony in Blue' but the artist did not like the painting when it was finished so he changed the blue to his favourite colour, red.

This painting is thought to be Matisse's masterpiece, which means it is an important and impressive painting.

How would the painting look if all the red was blue?

A Change of Style

This painting is called a portrait because it is a painting of a person. The painting, 'Purple Robe and Anemones', which you can view **here**, was painted in 1937. Can you see a difference in the artist's style to the other paintings?

When he painted this portrait, Matisse did not want it to look like real life at all. When asked if he could make it seem more real, he said that he did not create women, he made a picture.

Matisse collected patterned materials from different places he visited, then used the patterns in his paintings later.

Later Life

In his later years, Matisse began to experiment with cut outs. He made collages from these using different coloured paper.

In 1947, he published a book called 'Jazz' that became really popular. Some of the collages in the book have become famous works of art.

This collage is called '**The Knife-Thrower**'. Can you see the figures in the picture?

Le Lanceur de Couteaux [The Knife-Thrower], 1947, Henri Matisse
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NATIONAL GALLERIES SCOTLAND

Matisse Inspired Coral Reef Art

You will need:
- A range of brightly coloured paper and /or tissue paper
- A large sheet of plain white paper, such as A3 paper (to use as your canvas)

Equipment:
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions

1. Use your large sheet of plain white paper as your canvas.

2. Cut large and bold coral reef shapes from different coloured paper or tissue paper.

3. Layer and overlap these shapes onto your canvas so that they make a bright coral reef scene.

4. Next, cut out shapes of sea creatures, such as fish, starfish and octopuses.

5. Position these shapes amongst the coral reef shapes on your canvas.

6. When you are happy with your under the sea picture, use glue to stick your shapes in place.