



## **LESSON OVERVIEW**

Henri Matisse (1869-1954) was a french artist well known for his paintings with intense colors and bold shapes. Students will learn about the iconic paper cut-out compositions he developed at the end of his life, while exploring the elements of art and design to create a collage.

#### **INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES**

- Learn about Henry Matisse and his artwork.
- Discuss the influences of fauvism.
- Learn about the elements of art.
- Explore composition, color and shape.
- Create a collage

#### **SUPPLIES**

- Images and art samples of Henry Matisse
- Large bristol paper (11X17)
- Colored construction paper
- Collage materials such as magazines, newspapers, old stamps, postcards, etc.
- Scissors
- Glue
- Construction paper

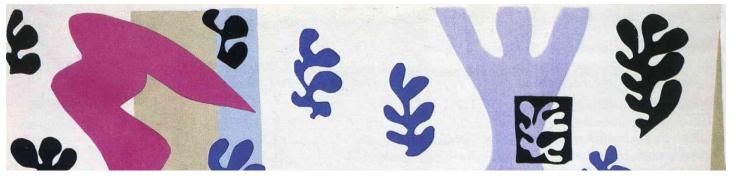
#### **HENRI MATISSE**







Henri Matisse (1869-1954) was born in northern France to parents who owned a general store. As a young man, Henri traveled to Paris to study law. He had an attack of appendicitis. During his recovery, his mother gave him a paint box. It was then, that Matisse decided to become an artist. He traveled to Paris to study art at the Academie Julian and was introduced to Impressionism and was influenced by this way of painting. Matisse became more interested in capturing a mood instead of trying to paint the world realistically. In 1905, he showed his work with other artist called "Fauves" and became famous. Later in his life, he had health issues but continued to work from a bed in his studio. He would draw with a pencil or charcoal attached to the end of a long pole to reach the paper or canvas. Matisse created cut paper collages. He called this new technique "painting with scissors". His large collages told stories with shapes like plants, animals and figures Learn More.





# **LESSON PLAN**

1. Introduce the life and work of Henry Matisse. Look at the paintings he is most known for that he created early in his life. Talk about his choice of colors, how they were influenced by the Fauve and other artists of his time. Then take a closer look at his 'cut-outs'. Share with student's information about his health and how it affected the way he created artwork. Describe his studio process. Ask students:

- What is a collage?
- How is collage (cutting out colored paper shapes to create art) similar to painting?
- Is it all random? How do artist make decision?
- Describe the shapes in Matisse's collages.
- 2. While looking at the collages, point out the different compositional elements: balance, movement, and repetition that Matisse's uses to create Unity. Also point out the positive and negative shapes in the artwork.
- 3. Pass out colored construction paper and scissors. Start with cutting out shapes (No pencils allowed, creating shapes with scissors only). Encourage students to use a variety of colors and sizes. When everyone has at least ten shapes start arranging them on the paper. Ask students to have some shapes overlap each other and think about the negative space. Encourage students to move shapes around on the paper before gluing them down and add more shapes when needed.
- 4. Then pass out glue and paste the design to the background paper, the largest shapes first, then the smaller ones on top.
- 5. Ask students to share their decision-making process to create their collage and give it a title.

EVA+: Take a closer look at Matisse still life paintings. Remind students how he uses colors boldly instead of realistically. Set up a simple still life for students to draw. Talk about where to place each object in relationship to one another. Use oil pastels or paint to explore color.











## **KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:**

Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements (Kindergarden).

VA:Cr1.1.Ka:

Engage in exploration and imaginative play with materials.

VA:Cr2.3.Ka:

Create art that represents natural and constructed environments.

VA:Re8.1.Ka:

Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details

VA:Cn11.1.Ka:

Identify a purpose of an artwork.



### **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

Click on links to learn more.

- http://www.henri-matisse.net/biography.html
- https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-henri-matisse
- <a href="https://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/2014/matisse/the-cut-outs.html">https://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/2014/matisse/the-cut-outs.html</a>
- http://www.henri-matisse.net/cut outs.html
- https://www.pinterest.com/pin/725361083704913332/

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