



Adventures in Art

Henri Matisse (1869-1954)

Lesson Plan:

This lesson plan accompanies a slide deck to illustrate the discussion. Please see accompanying presentation 'Adventures in Art: Henri Matisse'. The script for the lesson may be found in the 'Speaker Notes'.

1. Introduction

Henri Matisse was a French painter. He is best known for the bold, bright colors he used to create art.

He and his friends were called "**Fauves**", or "wild beasts", because people thought their use of color was so bold!

Along with painting with bold colors, Matisse painted a lot of interesting shapes. Later in his life, he became ill and painting became difficult for him. He began exploring color and shapes through paper cut-outs. Matisse called this "painting with scissors". This is the type of style we will explore today. It is also called **collage**.

To "paint with scissors", you cut out shapes, place them in a unique design, and paste them to the paper.

2. Read Aloud : *Henri's Scissors* by Jeanette Winter

A link to a YouTube video of the read aloud may be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgKvV13wEs8>

3. Discussion of art work

Source: <http://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-henri-matisse>

The Snail, 1953

One of Matisse's most famous works is called *The Snail*.

- Does this spiral pattern remind you of anything?



This shows Matisse's interest in bright colors.

- What colors do you see? How do they make you feel? Are they fun? Happy? Exciting?

Matisse placed certain colors next to each other to make a jazzy, eye-catching effect.

- Which colors did he place next to one another? How does that look to you? Is it extra bright? Extra zingy? (the green touches the blue, the blue touches the red, etc)
- Do you like the way these colors look together?

The Snail is a collage made from pieces of brightly colored paper that have been cut out and pasted to a canvas. Here is another example:

The Sheaf, 1953

- What does this look like to you?
- What shapes do you see? Are all the shapes the same? (no)
- What do these shapes look like?
- What colors do you see?
- What patterns do you see?
- How does this make you feel? Is it happy? Excited? Sad? Calm? Loud? Soft?
- Do you like this?
- What would you name this collage?

Here, Matisse has used a lot of shapes that look similar to each other, but they are actually all different. He has repeated the pattern over and over again, taking up almost the whole page.

The shapes and colors look like they are dancing. They are happy! This was Matisse's approach to life. ☺

The Horse, the Rider, and the Clown, 1943-4

This collage shows another example of the different ways Matisse cut paper:

- What shapes do you see that are large?
- What shapes do you see that are small?

Matisse used brightly colored paper to cut out animals, leaves, flowers, and dancers, and then he arranged them together.

- What colors do you see?
- What shapes do you see?
- Do you like this?
- Which one of the 3 is your favorite?

4. Art Activity: <https://artprojectsforkids.org/make-matisse-collage-2/>

Resources:

- <http://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-henri-matisse>