




## Henri Matisse Inspired Pictures


Learning outcomes:

KS1

- Use the local environment to explore and answer questions about plants and animals.
  - Recognise the characteristics and structures of plants and trees.
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KS2

- Explore the patterns and shapes found in nature during the summer.
- Understand the influence of nature on art and artists.




Wildlife flourishes in the summer, trees have beautiful leaves, flowers are blooming and many wonderful creatures and animals are thriving. In this activity, students can create Henri Matisse-inspired pictures using colourful paper cut-outs and shapes inspired by nature. By appreciating the patterns and shapes found in nature during summer, students can use their inspiration to create artwork. They will also explore the style of Henri Matisse and his cut-out works.

Contents Included:

- Coloured paper (3 packs)




Contents not Included:

- Plain paper (2 sheets per child for sketching and artwork)
  - Clipboards (1 per child)
  - Pencils (1 per child)
  - Scissors (1 pair per child)
  - Glue (PVA or glue sticks, enough for each child)
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### Instructions:

1. Introduce the class to Henri Matisse and show them pictures of his work, particularly his cut-out pieces. Pictures can be found online.
  2. Discuss with the class what they think the different shapes in Matisse's work represent and what they like and dislike about his art.
  3. Explain that they will create their own Matisse-inspired artworks using nature as inspiration.
  4. Take the children on a nature walk, providing paper, clipboards, and pencils for sketching shapes they find. Encourage them to observe various sizes of objects, both high and low, to discover a variety of shapes. Try to choose an area with greater biodiversity.
  5. Once they have filled their sketching paper with shape inspiration, return to the classroom and display Matisse's works for further inspiration.
  6. Distribute coloured paper, scissors, glue, and a sheet of plain paper or card for each child as a background.
  7. Instruct the students to sketch their inspired shapes on coloured paper and then cut them out. They should arrange the cut-outs on their background to create a composition they are happy with. Once satisfied, ask them to glue the shapes in place.
  8. Leave the artwork to dry and then celebrate their creations. Discuss with the class what elements of their work are inspired by Henri Matisse and nature. Ask them to share what they like about their work and what they would improve if given another opportunity. You could even set up your very own 'art gallery' where children can explore each others' work.
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Vocabulary: Patterns, Shapes, Inspiration, Nature, Artwork, Cut-outs, Sketches, Composition, Colors, Creativity