



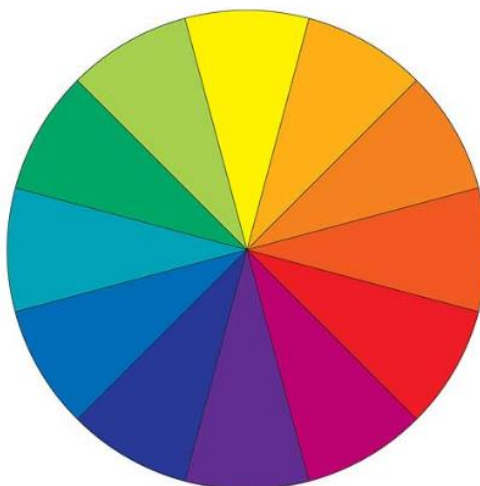
The Snail

By Henri Matisse

Henri Matisse was born in France in 1869. The Snail is one of his most famous works and it was created by cutting shapes from paper and collaging them onto a canvas or other background. Matisse called this 'painting with scissors'.

Why do you think the painting is called The Snail? There is no right or wrong answer, Matisse liked people to think about his work. Many people notice the spiral shape made by the cutouts. If you look very carefully, you will see a hidden snail. Can you spot it? There's a clue at the bottom of the page.

Matisse liked to use contrasting colours in his work. Look at the colour wheel. You will notice that Matisse put colours that are opposite each other on the wheel together in his artwork.



The Snail is a very big piece of art. It is almost 3 metres tall and 3 metres across! Look at the picture below, you can see that the artwork is taller than the man who is looking at it! If you watch the video on the link, you can spot the artwork being moved by a forklift truck. It's too heavy for a person to carry. Some of his work was much smaller as you can see in the second picture.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZubMjK6x9Q> (Trailer for Tate Modern exhibition)

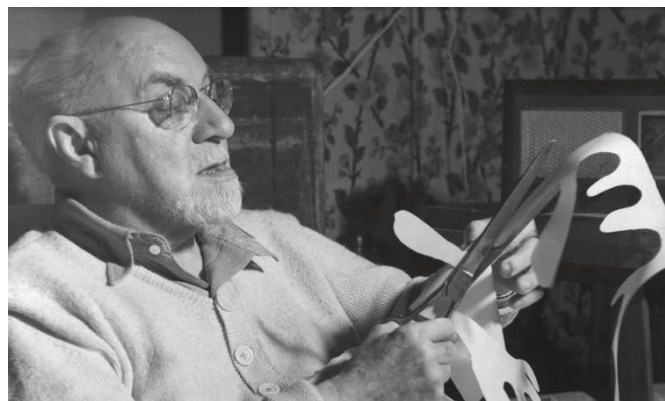
The Snail is on display at the Tate Modern in London. Click on these from the Tate Modern to find out more about Matisse and his work.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/kids-view/meet-matisse> (video)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-henri-matisse> (information and examples of work)

Activity

Use Matisse's 'with scissors technique' to create your own piece of art. Cut shapes from different colours of paper and arrange them to create a picture. It could be a snail or other minibeast. You can create a picture of anything that you like! Maybe you could hide a tiny secret image in your artwork, just like Matisse did with his snail. Take a photo and send it to school for our online gallery.





Detail from The Sheaf, 1953



Lagoon, 1947



The Horse, the Rider and the Clown, 1947

Clue: The hidden snail is **purple**. It is in the top left corner of the artwork.