**👨‍🎨 Who Was Henri Matisse?**

Henri Matisse (say: "On-ree Ma-tees") was a famous French artist. He painted bright, colourful pictures and made amazing cut-out art too! Matisse loved using bold shapes and cheerful colours that made people smile.

**👦 Childhood Facts**

* Henri Matisse was born on **December 31, 1869** in a small town in **France**.
* As a child, he didn’t plan to be an artist — he wanted to be a **lawyer**!
* He didn’t start painting until he was **in bed sick** one day as a young adult. He tried painting to pass the time… and he **loved it!**

**🎓 Education and Art Style**

* Matisse went to **art school in Paris** to learn how to paint.
* At first, he painted in dark colours, but later he became known for using **bright, bold colours**.
* He helped start a style of art called **Fauvism** — that means "wild beasts" in French because the colours were so wild and bright!
* Later in life, when he got too ill to paint with a brush, he used scissors to make **cut-out pictures** called **collages**.
* **💡 Fun Matisse Facts**
* He loved **music** and often painted while listening to it.
* His house and studio were filled with **flowers, patterns, and bright fabrics**.
* People say his art makes you feel **joyful, dreamy, and full of colour**.
* He once said, *“There are always flowers for those who want to see them.”*

**🖼️ Famous Works**

Here are some of his most famous artworks:



* 🎨 **"The Snail"** – A big colourful spiral made from paper shapes.



* 🎨 **"Icarus"** – A black figure with stars around him, showing a story from Greek mythology.

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* 🎨 **"Woman with a Hat"** – A portrait of his wife using wild colours!