Henri Rousseau

A person in a black suit holding a painting

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Henri Rousseau was a French artist who loved to paint magical jungle scenes, even though he never visited a real jungle! His colourful, dreamlike pictures are full of wild animals, trees, and plants, and they look a bit like storybook illustrations.

🧒 **Childhood**

* Henri Rousseau was born in France in 1844.
* His father was a plumber, and his family didn’t have much money.
* As a child, he liked drawing and nature.
* He played the violin and enjoyed music too.

🎓 **Education**

* Henri didn’t go to art school when he was young.
* He learned to paint by copying pictures and teaching himself.
* He visited museums and studied famous paintings.
* People called him a “naïve” or “self-taught” artist.

🖼️ **Fun Fact:**  
Even though Rousseau never left France, his jungle paintings were inspired by books, visits to the zoo, and plants at the botanical gardens!

💼 **Career**

* He worked as a customs officer, checking goods at the city gates—so people called him “Le Douanier” (The Customs Officer).
* He painted in his spare time and didn’t become famous until later in life.
* Many people made fun of his art at first because it looked different.
* Today, his jungle paintings are loved all over the world!

🗣️ **Quotes from Henri Rousseau**

“When I go into the glass houses and I see the strange plants of exotic lands, it seems to me that I enter into a dream.”  
“I always believe in my art.”  
“Beauty is the promise of happiness.”  
“I’m not copying nature, I’m expressing it.”

**🎨 Art**

A tiger in the jungle

AI-generated content may be incorrect. Tiger in a tropical storm

A painting of a couple of people walking in a forest

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A painting of a forest

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The equatorial jungle

A child in a black shirt

AI-generated content may be incorrect. Carnival evening

Boy on the rocks