

Henri Rousseau



Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!) 1891

Oil on canvas - 129.8 x 161.9 cm

The National Gallery, London

Artistic Emphasis

Henri Rousseau (1844-1910) was a French painter, best known for his jungle scenes.

Imagination is a powerful tool! In this era of Google-earth, instant imaging, and easy travel, students are asked to consider how people "saw" faraway places in earlier times. Rousseau is known for his exotic paintings of lush tropical jungles, all of which he painted without ever leaving Paris. He painted using his imagination along with what he learned about light, shadow, plants and animals by looking around Paris. His paintings are not realistic, but they evoke the sense of the jungle to the viewer, communicating "jungle" even to those of us who, in modern times, have experienced virtual visits to the jungle via the internet.

Project Description

Using their imaginations, models of animals and houseplants, and the technique of paper collage, students evoke a jungle in the style of Rousseau.

Advance Preparation

- Schedule a date with your teacher. Remember to check the on-line calendar for conflicts first. _____
- One week prior to your date, check the Fine Arts supply room to make sure all the supplies are in the cabinet.
- Cut leaf shapes using the various green papers and stencil patterns in the Fine Arts supply cabinet. You will need as many as 20-40 leaves per student.
- The volunteer making the presentation should read through the handbook, located in the Fine Arts supply room, and become familiar with the project narrative and visuals.
- Recommended number of volunteers: 3