

Rousseau's Rainforests

Henri Rousseau

Henri Rousseau 1844-1910

- Henri Rousseau was born in western France
- He never had any art lessons and started painting when he was older
- He never visited the rainforest but he is best known for his rainforest and jungle scenes, such as *Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)*
- He painted house plants and wild flowers for his rainforest paintings and often looked at pictures in books
- His art was called 'Post-impressionism' – this is an abstract style of art, which means that he didn't try to paint things exactly as they look in real life.



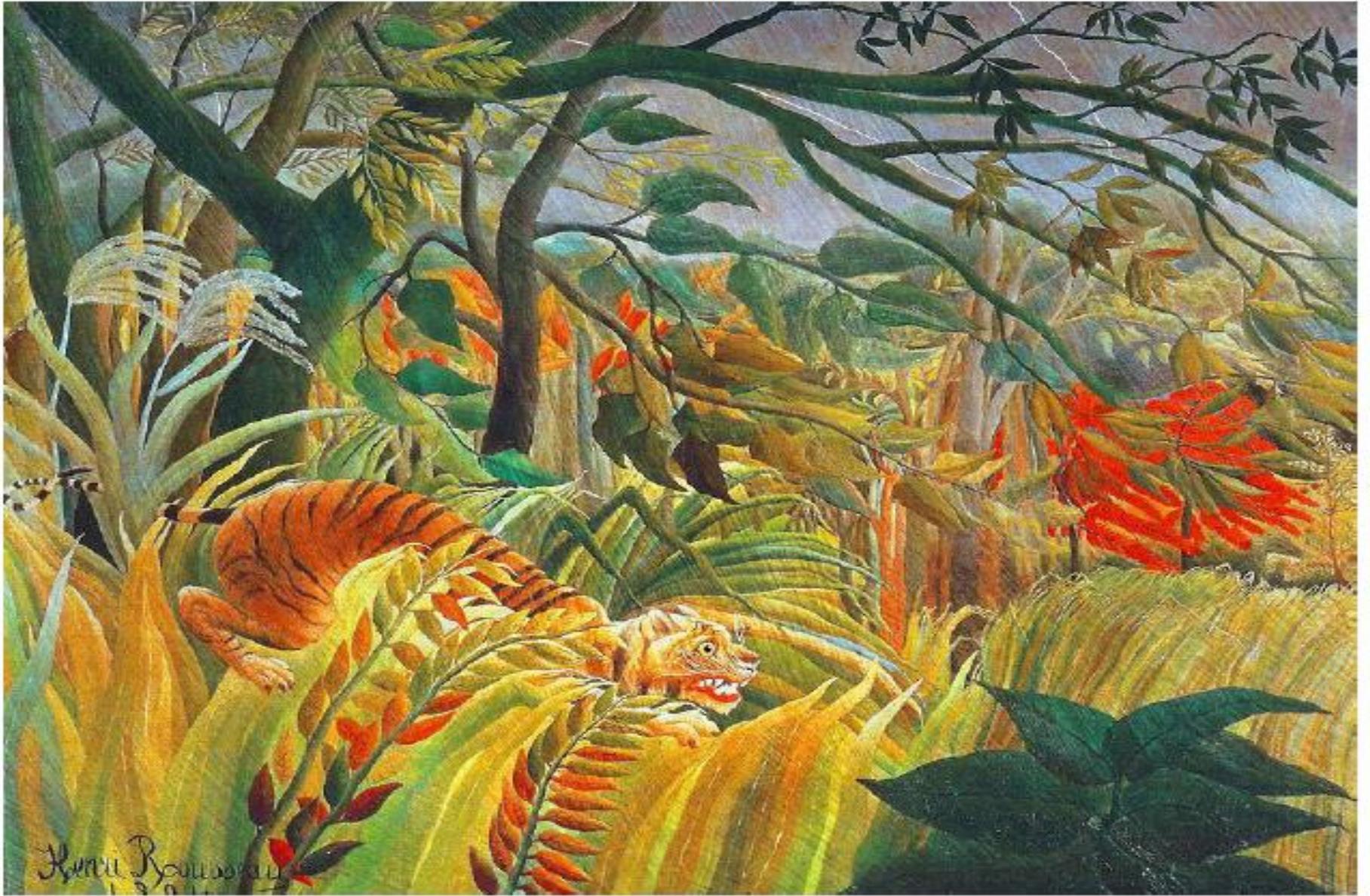
The Equatorial Jungle (1909)

Henri Rousseau would compose his paintings in layers. These paintings all started with a background with varying colours blended together to give a sky-like appearance.

He would then paint the plants on top of the background in layers. He would paint plants in the middle ground and then paint more plants over the top of them in the foreground. He would paint tropical animals too.

Where are the animals in this painting – in the background, the middle ground or the foreground?

Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!) (1891)



Where has Rousseau located the animal in this painting?

Tropical forest with monkeys (1910)



What about in this painting?



Exotic Landscape, 1910
by Henri Rousseau

Can you identify the background in this painting? What colours were used for it?

How does the level of detail in the plants in the middle ground compared to those in the foreground?



Can you identify the background, middle ground and foreground in this painting?

What colours were used this time?



Take note of Rousseau's technique

- Clear outlines on the grass in the foreground
- Each leaf clearly painted

Rousseau's rainforest paintings

- He used very simple **pure colours**
- He had very **clear outlines**
- He filled rainforest paintings with **animals in the foreground** and **lush green plants in the background**
- He painted **leaves and grass** piece by piece with clear **outlines**
- He often painted huge **over-sized flowers**





Rousseau

- Can you spot the giant sized blue flowers?
- What colour flowers would you paint?
- How tall would they be?



Monkeys and parrot in the Forest

Task

Can you create a rainforest scene in the style of Henri Rousseau?

Watch the videos for inspiration and choose one that you feel you could follow to create your own rainforest art.

Your artwork can be a pencil or crayon drawing, a painting or a collage – it is your choice. But remember to create your own version – you don't have to create a replica of Rousseau's paintings.

Tip: Look at plants around you (or ones you know from the rainforest) for inspiration on leaf shapes and colours!

Think about the colours you can see in the real rainforest



Can you see light and dark in the real rainforest?
Is it all the same shade of green?



Think about the height of these rainforest plants.
Are they all the same height?



The Real Rainforest



Rousseau's Rainforest



Task

Create a Rainforest scene in the style of Henri Rousseau

Remember:

- Your scene should be made up of layers - a background / middle ground / foreground
- Use very simple **pure colours**
- Use very **clear outlines**
- Have your **animals in the foreground** and **lush green plants in the background**
- Make sure to paint / draw **leaves** and **grass** piece by piece with clear **outlines**
- Include some huge **over-sized flowers**

The following pages give website links for videos and picture ideas

Website links

You might want to use these videos to help you:

Explores Rousseau's use of imagination in painting and the techniques Rousseau used

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/art-and-design-ks2-henri-rousseau-surprised/zrdyd6f>

How to painting a Rainforest like Henri Rousseau

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm6EqBp5cfl&feature=youtu.be>

<https://youtu.be/O5Q7Y6z59k0>

Real rainforest plants





Real Rainforest Flowers





www.yoyita.com

www.my-rainforest-adventures.com



Step by step guide to drawing a leopard

