WHAT IS A Collage?
Collage came from the French word “coller”, which means “to glue”. A collage is an artwork made by gluing things together, such as:

- String
- Fabric
- Newspaper
- Photos
- Cardboard
- Bits of paintings
- Tissue or wrapping paper,
- Shells
- Feathers
- Stones
- and even Broken Bits of Toys.
Meet the Artist

Henri Matisse (MA-TEES)
Matisse had appendicitis when he was 21 years old. While sick in bed, his mother gave him a box of paints, brushes and a how-to-paint book. These art supplies made Matisse feel free and gave him a love for colors. A year later, much against the wishes of his father, Matisse quit law school to become a painter.

Henri Matisse was also a great French painter 1869 to 1954.
He also created many collages and sculptors and lead the modern art movement, which encouraged artists to use bold primary colors along with free, simple forms.
In 1905 Matisse and a group of artists exhibited their paintings using a new style. An art critic called this new style Fauvism, which means “WILD BEAST” in French, because the art was so wild and expressive with strange shapes and bright colors.
Matisse lived in South France most of his adult life, and also traveled to Morocco and Tahiti. All those places provided inspiration for many of his pictures and collages. In Tahiti he was so overwhelmed by the colorful ocean, sea life, and colorful array of nature that he was unable to paint for a while, but could only look in amazement.

Windows at Tangiers 1912
In the last 15 years of his life, Matisse made 270 paper cutouts or collage art works. Even when he was too weak to stand at an easel, he cut colorful paper into simple shapes, making them into sometimes wall size pictures. *Beasts of the Sea* has a wonderful underwater feeling of fish, sea cucumbers, sea horses, and seaweeds. Matisse understood how colors and shapes could come to life.
What bright colors were used here?
Do the shapes seem realistic to you?
What is this picture telling you?
Here Matisse was telling the biblical story of David playing music to distract King Saul from his sadness.

The guitar, flying yellow flower petals and bold colors try to capture the picture of a sad king while music was being played.

Matisse cut pre-painted sheets of paper and used glue to make this collage.

The Sadness of the King - 1952
Matisse composed his shapes into pictures, just like a musician composes a song note by note. He pushed the round and angular, curved and jagged shapes to and fro until they produced a picture he liked. Then Matisse published his cut-out forms in a book, which he named after the popular and soulful music in France, called Jazz.

Clockwise from top left: Snow Flowers; Creole Dancers; Polinesia, The Sky; and Icarus
*The Snail* is 9'4 3/4" x 9' 5" in size and was one of the last and largest pieces made by Matisse. The shell of a snail inspired the spiraling arrangement of roughly cut pieces of paper. Bed-ridden due to illness, the artist cut out shapes of paper - which had been pre-colored with paint - using large scissors, and directed his assistants to pin them onto large sheets of white paper attached to the wall of the studio.
Henri Matisse
1869 to 1954
MATISSE ART PROJECT

Inspired art work “under the sea”
Materials Provided:  
- Colored heavy construction paper - 9” X 12”  
- Colored construction paper  
- White glue  
- Brushes for gluing  
- Bright tissue paper  
- Ribbon or yarn

Materials Provided by Volunteer / Teacher:  
- Scissors  
- Bowls / plates for thinning white glue  
- Various collage scraps of paper, magazine pictures, or scrapbook paper
Matisse (MAH-TEESS)
Story Color Collage

Process:

1. Have the students think of a theme or a picture that will tell a story.
2. Have them choose one colored 9” X 12” heavy construction paper.
3. Put glue in a plate or bowl and thin with water.
4. Glue artist slip on back and write their name.
5. Pick out a few colored papers. Select some that go together or contrast nicely. Glue some larger squares or rectangles of color on the paper as a background, if desired.
6. Next, cut some of the papers into interesting shapes. To imitate Matisse, the shapes should be bold and simple in their designs. Glue the shapes on the background papers of the collage.
7. Add more shapes in black or deeper colors to give centers of interest to the collage, if desired. Or use tissue paper painted on with thinned glue which will give a transparent bright effect.
8. To express a story, decide on what the colors and shapes of the paper will symbolize. Then glue them on the collage in a way that expresses feelings or tells a story like a colorful dreamlike photograph. For example, the arrival of a new baby might be shown with a bright pink rounded shape in the center of the other colors (the adults surrounding the baby). The ideas for this type of expression are completely up to the artist.
9. Allow your Matisse collage to dry thoroughly and enjoy.
“The teaching of the arts and the humanities in our school is essential to all of us. Our ability to communicate effectively, the growth and vitality of our cultural heritage, all depend upon understanding and appreciating The pivotal role of the arts and the humanities In developing a truly literate society.”

~ Andrew Haiskell, Chairman
Presidentís Committee on Arts & the Humanities
Chairman of the Board, Time, Inc.