Who is Henri Matisse?

Henri Matisse was born on December 31, 1869 in Le Cateau-Cambresis,France. His parents owned a general store in the village.As a young man, Henri studied law in Paris, France. In 1889 he returned home to work in a law office as a clerk. He became very ill with appendicitis and required surgery. While he was recovering his mother gave him a box of paints to make his time more enjoyable. At the age of 21 he discovered his love of painting and decided to become an artist instead of a lawyer. Matisse traveled to Paris to study art. His first art teacher told him he was not very good and would never learn to draw. Matisse wanted to succeed and worked very hard. In 1897 Matisse was introduced to Impressionism, a new style of painting. He found this new style very interesting and changed his style of painting. He loved the Impressionism style of painting and the artists who painted this way. Everyone liked Matisse's paintings because they were painted with bright primary colors. Matisse became famous after an art show. Later in the 1940's Matisse began creating cut paper collages and large pictures. He called this new technique "painting with scissors". His cut paper collages showed his talent for color and geometric shapes. Matisse developed his own unique style of painting. His paintings are famous around the whole world. He is considered one of the leaders of modern art.