Elements: Shape & Color
Principles: Unity & Contrast
Materials:

- 12” x 18” white construction paper
- 9” x 12” multi-colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions:

1. View the artwork from French artist Henri Matisse (example below), paying special attention to his shape paintings in particular.
2. Have students explain the difference between geometric shapes and organic shapes.

3. Show a sample of the art collage. Explain that we are not painting shapes, like Matisse, but cutting them out instead. Point out that there is a variety (contrast) in size and color between the shapes.

4. Have students cut desired shapes out of colored paper. They are free to use as little or as many colors as they would wish, but they need to cut out at least a dozen shapes or more. They can have repetitions of the same shape if desired (I had one student make all blue shapes, with just one red shape that was visually awesome in the past).

5. When the students finish cutting their shapes out, let them puzzle it together on their paper in the way that pleases them the most.

6. When they are satisfied with the unity of the composition and the contrast of shapes/colors, have them glue their shapes onto the white background paper.

7. Have the students put their name on the back of their art and help clean up.

When the art elements “go together” – when they are combined in a pleasing way – the artwork has Unity.
French artist **Henri Matisse** – Memory of Oceania - 1953