

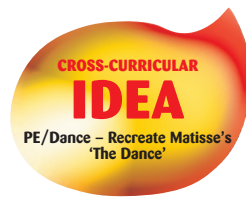


# Dancing Figures

Look at ways to portray movement using simple torn paper shapes and Henri Matisse's 'The Dance' for inspiration.

## Materials

Cartridge paper and/or sketchbooks  
Coloured paper (any colour)  
'The Dance' by Matisse  
Glue - PVA or glue stick.



## Method

- Show children a copy of 'The Dance' by Matisse and talk to them about the way Matisse has shown movement. Point out how Matisse has painted each part of the dancer's body.
- Use a piece of coloured sugar paper and model how to tear the paper to represent each limb, the torso and head. For each limb tear 2 pieces (i.e. upper and lower leg).
- Start the children off tearing pieces to make the body.
- Ask the children to lay the pieces onto paper or a page of their sketchbook and to move the pieces around to show a body in motion.
- While the children do this you could tear a larger version and put onto a sheet of paper as an example. Move the limbs around then show the children and ask for comments. Encourage the children to have a go with your larger version and show the rest of the class.
- Allow a little time for children to experiment then when they are happy that their figure appears to be moving ask them to glue the pieces down.
- If time allows the children could make more than one figure ensuring that the second one is in a different pose.



## Taking it Further

Work on a giant scale to make life size figures using the same method and create figures dancing around the walls of the school. Take photos of the class engaged in PE/Dance and use these as source material alongside the Matisse painting.

This activity is ideal for helping children gain a general sense of the proportions of the human body. The lack of detail required enables them to focus on making the figures look visually 'right' rather than making them look lifelike.