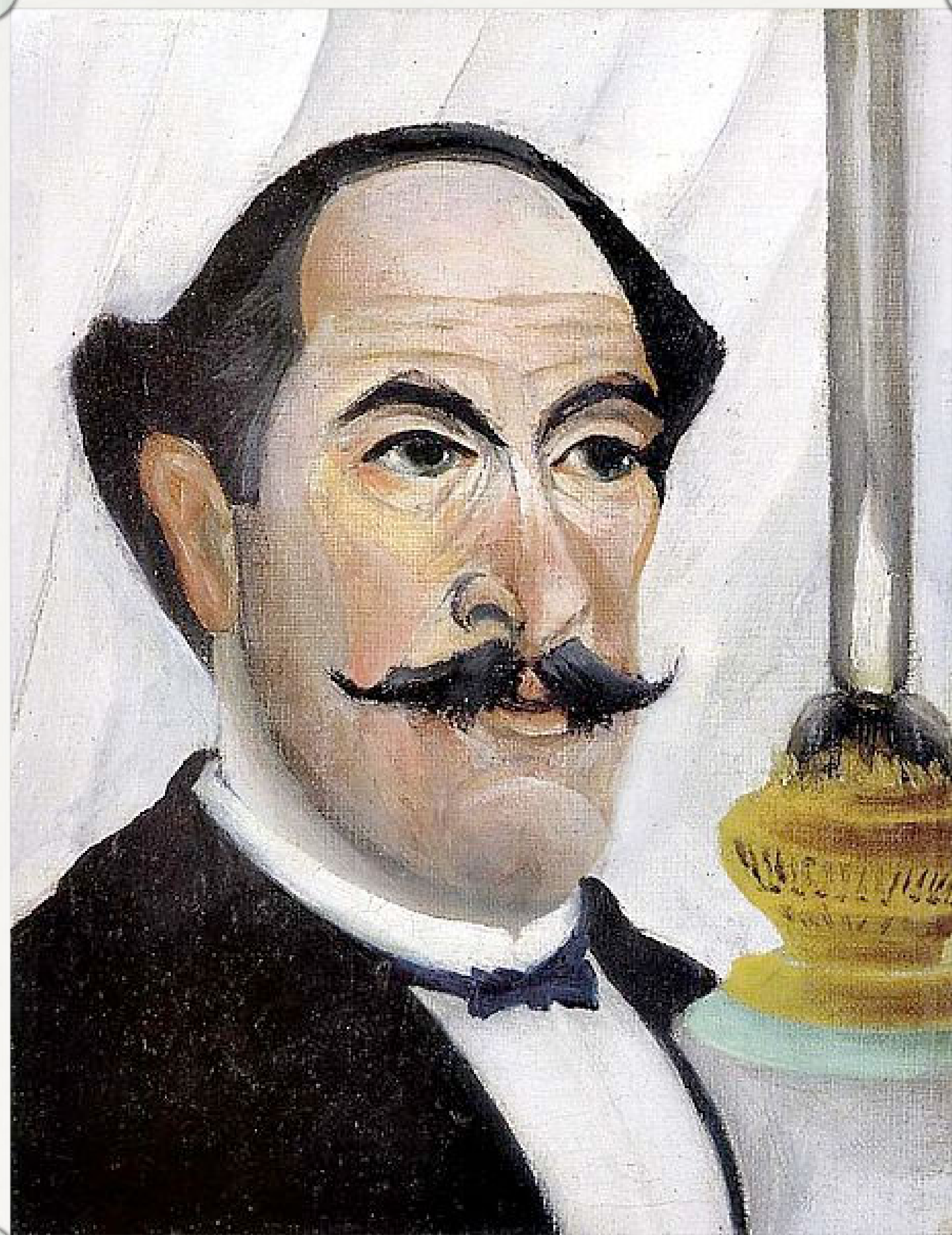


The Rainforest

Learning Objective:

To explore and replicate the art of Henri Rousseau.





This is a self-portrait of an artist called **Henri Rousseau**. Rousseau was born on 21st May 1844 in France. He came from quite a poor family and lived a very ordinary life. He was a tax collector, although he always enjoyed painting and wanted to be an artist.

What can you tell about Rousseau from this painting?



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At the age of 49 he left his job and began to paint full time. He never had any training and even though he wanted to be a famous artist, the artists of the time made fun of him because they thought his art was 'child-like'.

But one artist, Pablo Picasso, saw his work and thought it was very good. Gradually, he began to be taken seriously, but it wasn't until after his death in 1910 that his work was really appreciated.



Henri Rousseau's favourite thing to draw was jungle scenes even though he had never set foot in a rainforest.



Rousseau lived in a time before television or the internet. How do you think he knew what a jungle looked like?

Think, pair, share your ideas.

Rousseau got his ideas from illustrations in books and on postcards. He also spent a lot of time at the botanical gardens in Paris. Sometimes, his paintings show animals that wouldn't live in rainforests, such as lions.



This painting is called 'The Repast of the Lion' and was painted in 1907. What do you think of it?

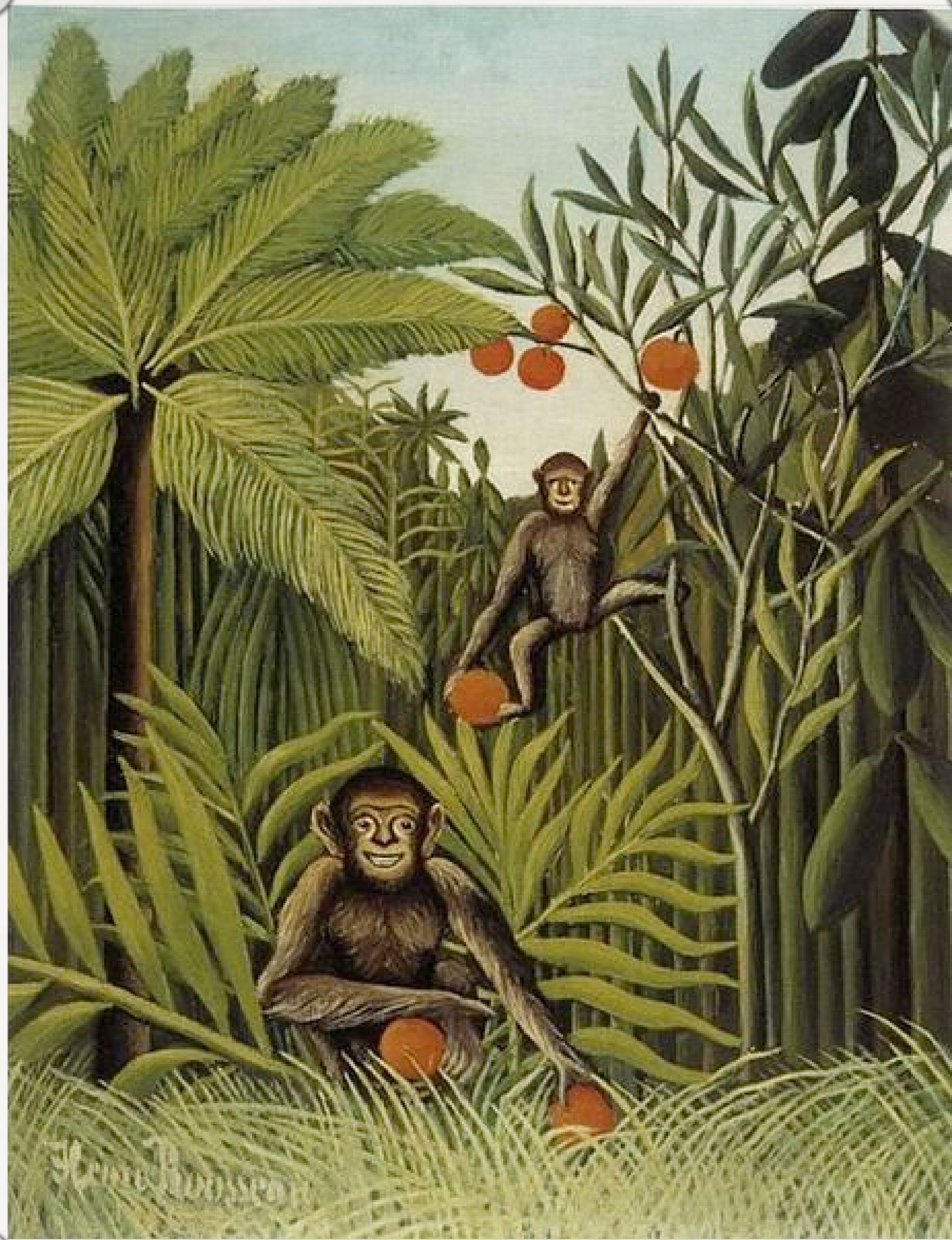


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Have a look at some more of Rousseau's paintings on the next slides. For each one, discuss what you can see in the picture and how it makes you feel.





Two Monkeys in the Jungle 1909

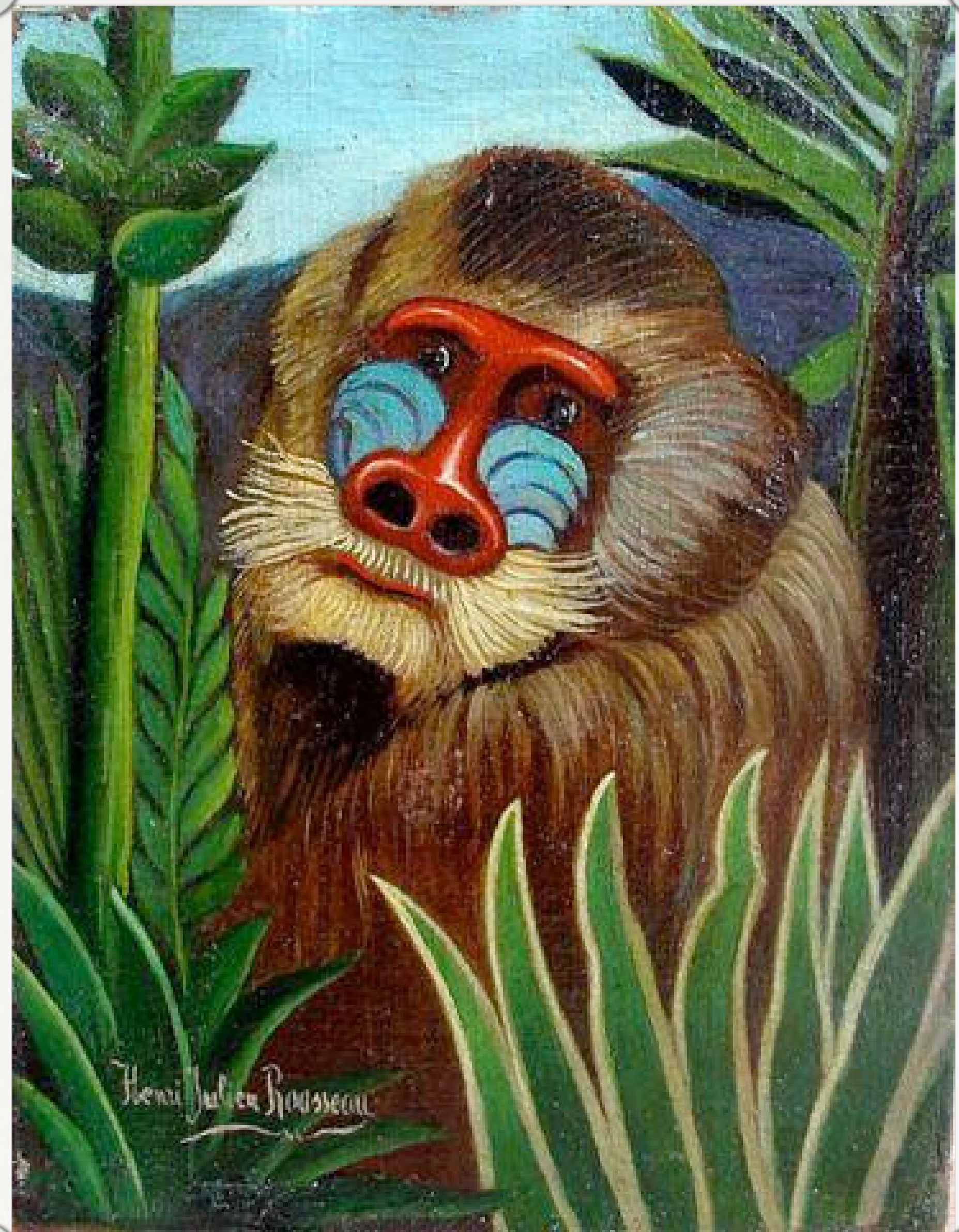


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Mandrill in the Jungle 1909



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Combat of a Tiger and a Buffalo 1908



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Surprise! 1891

This is probably
Rousseau's most
famous painting.



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The Merry Jesters

1906



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The Waterfall 1910



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The Hungry Lion Throws Itself on the Antelope

1905



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Tropical Forest with Monkeys 1910



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What do all Rousseau's paintings have in common?

How would you describe the style of his artwork?



Think, pair, share your ideas.

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Rousseau often used a light sky to contrast with the darkness of the jungle.



He used lots of repeated shapes to build up the leaves of the plants.

He used lots of bold, contrasting colours.



He used blocks of colour. He often had dark sections of green contrasting with lighter shades of green.

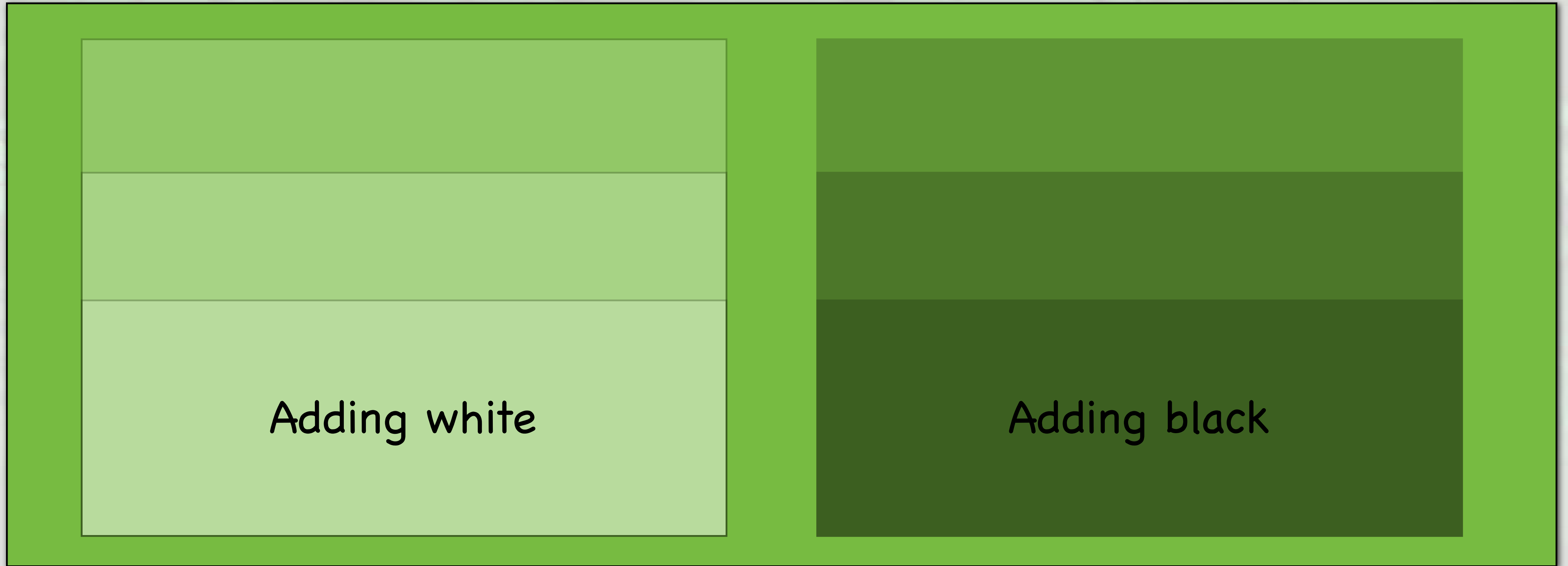
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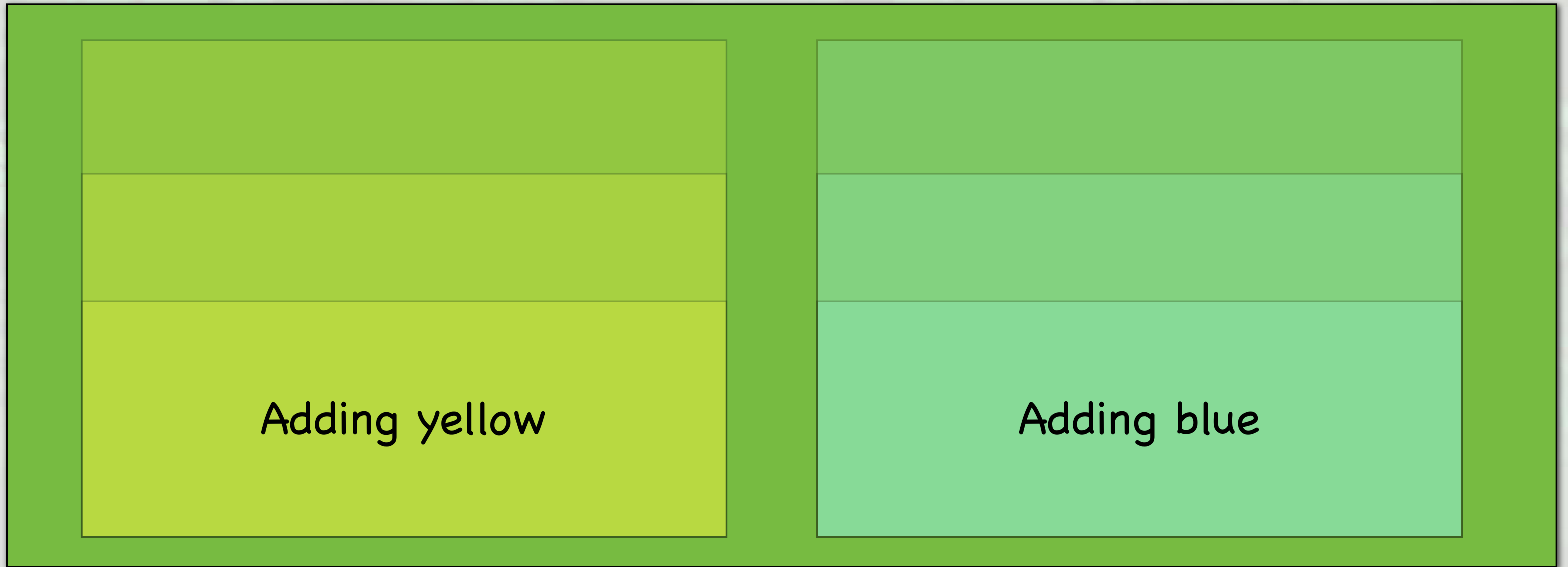


Rousseau used lots of different shades of green in his paintings. How do you think he made all the different shades of green with his paints?

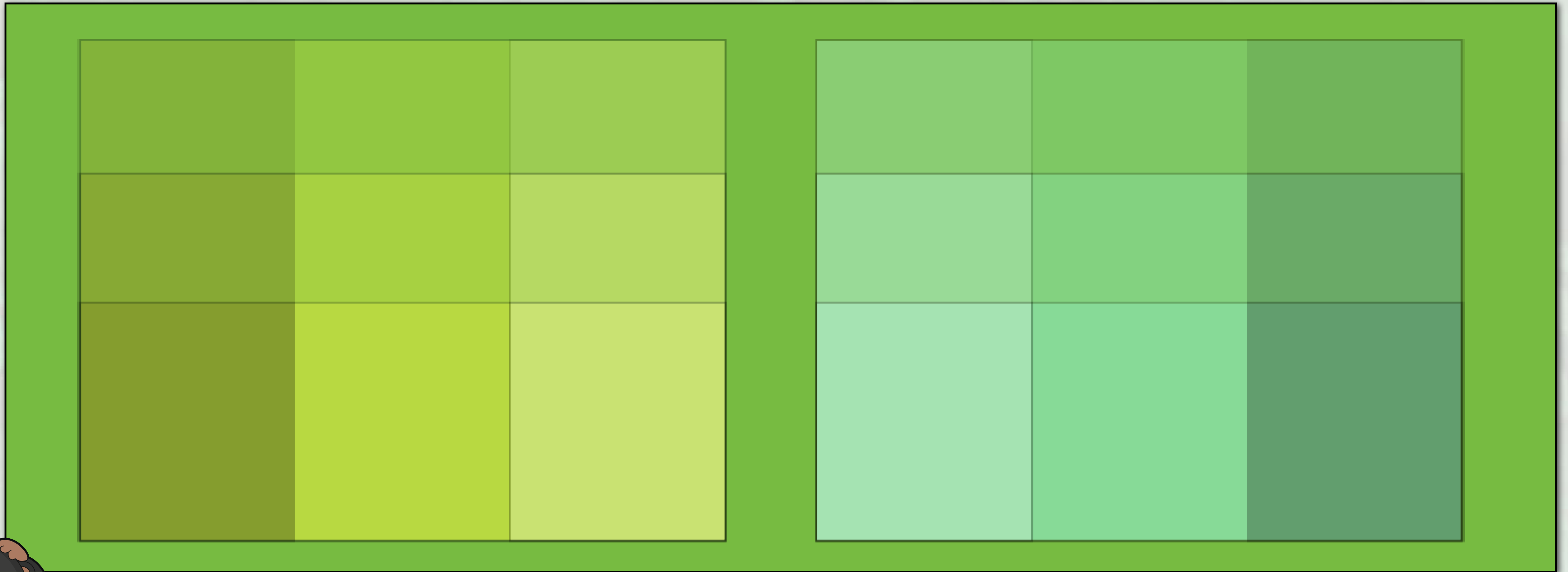
To make green paint lighter or darker, you can add white or black paint. The more black you add, the darker the green will be. The more white you add, the lighter the green will become.



Green is made up of two primary colours: yellow and blue. If you mix green with a little more of these colours, you will get some more different shades.



You can also lighten or darken the new shades of green with white and black.



How many shades of green can you see?

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