



READING

A creative friendship

Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse met for the first time in 1906 in Paris. Matisse, born in 1869, was 37 and already a successful artist. He was self-assured but rather reserved. Picasso, born in 1881, was 25, passionate, decisive and ambitious. He was at the start of his career but already famous for his great talent.

In 1907 Matisse and Picasso began a powerful dialogue through their art. They often did paintings of similar subjects. The Frenchman inspired Picasso to use colour; the Spaniard inspired Matisse to experiment with style. Picasso said that "No one has looked at Matisse's painting more carefully than I, and no one has looked at mine more carefully than he." The first joint exhibition of their works was in 1918 in Paris. Since then, there have been two more major exhibitions about Picasso and Matisse's very special and creative relationship. People have often described the two artists as rivals who were jealous of each other's work, but Matisse said their disagreements were always friendly.

After the Second World War, Picasso moved to the South of France where Matisse lived and the two artists spent a great deal of time together. "When one of us dies", said Matisse, "there will be some things that the other will never be able to talk of with anyone else."

Matisse died in 1954, but until his own death in 1973 Picasso

continued to refer back to Matisse in his work.



1. Read the text "*A creative friendship*" and complete the table.

	Matisse	Picasso
Nationality		
Born		
Died		
Personality		

2. Answer the questions:

- 1) *How did the two artists meet?*
- 2) *What effect did they have on each other's art?*
- 3) *What was their relationship like?*
- 4) *How did Picasso show his feelings about the death of Matisse?*