Drawing a Salmon: Body, Fins, and Scale Pattern

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a salmon with total length 10 cm using the lesson proportions. Mark the deepest point, body depth, and peduncle depth. Add dorsal, pelvic, anal, and adipose fins at the specified landmarks.

Answer: Deepest point at 3.3 cm from the head; body depth 2.5 cm; peduncle depth 1 cm; dorsal base center at 3.3 cm with base length 1.7 cm; pelvic at 5 cm; anal at 6.7 cm; adipose at 8.75 cm.

Reason: Apply L/3, L/4, L/10, L/6, L/2, 2L/3, and 7L/8 to L=10 cm. These hypothetical proportions keep the shape readable and checkable.

Check: Measure each landmark from the head end with a ruler; confirm values within about 0.5 cm and that fins attach cleanly.

Task 2

A student draws a salmon with total length 16 cm but places the dorsal fin base center at 10 cm from the head. Identify the error and state the correct position and base length using the lesson proportions.

Answer: The dorsal base center should be at about L/3 = 5.3 cm from the head, not 10 cm. The base length should be about L/6 = 2.7 cm.

Reason: The dorsal fin is placed above the deepest point, which is at about L/3. Placing it at 10 cm puts it too far back, near the anal fin region.

Check: Measure from the head end: L/3 of 16 cm is about 5.3 cm; L/6 is about 2.7 cm. Compare with the drawing.

Task 3

Describe how to add a scale pattern to a salmon of total length 20 cm using the lesson convention. Include stroke length, row spacing, and where to leave clear areas.

Answer: Use stroke length about L/20 = 1 cm. Arrange staggered rows from shoulder to tail with spacing about one stroke width. Curve strokes to follow the body contour, consistent direction per row. Leave the head and fin bases clear.

Reason: The convention uses short curved strokes in staggered rows; L/20 gives a legible stroke length for a 20 cm fish. Clear areas prevent clutter at fins and head.

Check: Scan rows: stroke length near 1 cm, spacing even, curve direction consistent, no strokes crossing fin bases or head.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a salmon with total length 8 cm. After drawing, check three landmarks: deepest point, anal fin base center, and adipose fin position. State the expected values and one adjustment if a landmark is off by more than 1 cm.

Answer: Deepest point at about 2.7 cm; anal base center at about 5.3 cm; adipose at about 7 cm. If the anal base is off by more than 1 cm, move it to about 5.3 cm and adjust the belly contour slightly to keep the fin attached.

Reason: Apply L/3, 2L/3, and 7L/8 to L=8 cm. Adjusting one landmark while keeping others fixed preserves overall proportion.

Check: Measure from the head end with a ruler; confirm values within about 1 cm and that the fin base sits on the body contour.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body shape: tapered oval with deepest point near L/3 and peduncle near L/10 deep.
- [ ] Fin placement: dorsal base center near L/3, pelvic near L/2, anal near 2L/3, adipose near 7L/8.
- [ ] Fin attachment: each fin has a clear base on the body and no scale strokes cross it.
- [ ] Scale pattern: consistent stroke length and spacing, curve direction follows body contour, head and fin bases clear.
- [ ] Legibility: overall drawing reads as a salmon at a glance; valid alternative patterns accepted if consistent.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?