Cute Dinosaur Drawing: Body and Spike Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a cute dinosaur using a body oval 8 cm wide and 4 cm tall, a head circle 3 cm in diameter, and four spikes along the back. Use two medium spikes and two small spikes in alternating order. Describe where each spike base sits.

Answer: The body oval is 8 cm by 4 cm, the head circle is 3 cm, and four spikes alternate medium, small, medium, small along the back line. Each spike base touches the back contour, and the last spike is near the tail base.

Reason: The proportions are hypothetical but checkable. Alternating sizes create rhythm, and placing bases on the back line follows the spike convention.

Check: Measure the body oval and head circle with a ruler. Trace the back line and confirm each spike base touches it. Count the spikes and verify the alternating order.

Task 2

A drawing has a body oval 10 cm wide and 5 cm tall, a head circle 2 cm in diameter, and six spikes of random sizes. Identify two problems and describe how to fix them using the convention.

Answer: Problem one: the head is too small relative to the body, reducing cuteness. Fix by enlarging the head circle to about 4 cm. Problem two: random spike sizes create clutter. Fix by alternating medium and small spikes and reducing size gradually along the tail.

Reason: A larger head supports the cute style, and a clear spike rhythm follows the convention. The numerical values are hypothetical examples.

Check: Compare head diameter to body width; a cute ratio is roughly one-third to one-half. Check spike order for a visible pattern and confirm each base touches the back line.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a dinosaur with a tail that tapers from 3 cm wide at the body to a rounded tip, and place three spikes on the tail. Describe how spike size changes toward the tip and how you check attachment.

Answer: The tail starts 3 cm wide and narrows to a rounded tip. Three spikes sit on the tail: the first is medium, the second is small, and the third is smaller. Each spike base touches the tail contour, and sizes decrease toward the tip.

Reason: Gradual size reduction along the tail maintains rhythm and prevents the tip from looking cluttered. Attachment is checked by tracing the tail contour.

Check: Measure the tail width at the body and near the tip. Trace the tail contour and confirm each spike base sits on it. Compare spike sizes to verify gradual reduction.

Task 4

Create a checklist for a partner to check your cute dinosaur drawing. Include at least four checks based on the body construction and spike convention, and explain how each check allows valid alternatives.

Answer: Checklist: 1) Head, body, tail, and legs connect smoothly; alternatives include different body widths. 2) Head is large relative to body; alternatives include slightly smaller or larger heads if still cute. 3) Every spike base touches the back line; alternatives include rounded or pointed spikes. 4) Spike rhythm is visible; alternatives include alternating sizes or gradual tail reduction. 5) Tail does not cross legs; alternatives include different tail curves.

Reason: The checklist targets the convention while allowing style variation. Each check is observable and does not require a single universal answer.

Check: Ask your partner to trace the contour, count spikes, and verify rhythm. Compare their observations to the checklist and note one specific improvement.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body construction: head, body, tail, and legs are clearly connected with smooth outer curves.
- [ ] Cuteness: head is large relative to the body, shapes are rounded, and facial features are simple and centered.
- [ ] Spike convention: every spike base sits on the back line, spike style is consistent, and rhythm is visible.
- [ ] Legs and tail: dinosaur stands on its legs, tail tapers to a rounded tip, and tail does not cross the legs.
- [ ] Line quality: final outline uses consistent line weight and avoids unnecessary internal guide lines.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: different spike shapes, eye sizes, or proportions are acceptable if the convention remains consistent.

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