Realistic Fish Drawing: Proportion and Shading Guide

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A fish is drawn with body length 20 cm on paper. Using the hypothetical 2:5 depth ratio, find the maximum body depth and state where to mark it.

Answer: Maximum depth is 8 cm. Mark it at about one-third of the body length from the snout, which is about 6.7 cm from the snout tip.

Reason: Depth equals two-fifths of length: 20 times 2 divided by 5 equals 8 cm. One-third of 20 cm is about 6.7 cm, so the deepest point is marked there. This is a teaching convention, not a universal rule.

Check: Measure the depth at the mark with a ruler. It should be 8 cm. Measure from the snout to the mark; it should be about 6.7 cm. If either measurement is off by more than 0.5 cm, adjust the construction marks.