Draw a Shark: Fin Placement and Body Shape Construction

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

Draw a shark with an x-height of 4 cm. Use a body length of 12 cm, a dorsal fin base of 4 cm, a pectoral fin length of 4 cm, and a tail within 4 cm of the tail mark. Describe the construction steps and the final check.

Answer: Draw a baseline and a midline 4 cm above it. Mark nose and tail 12 cm apart on the baseline. Mark the widest point on the midline 4 cm from the nose. Draw smooth top and bottom curves from nose to tail, tapering toward the tail. Mark the dorsal fin base on the top curve, 4 cm long, starting above the widest point. Draw the dorsal fin about 2 cm high with a sloping front edge. Mark the pectoral fin start below the midline, 2 cm behind the nose, and draw it 4 cm long, angled back. Add tail lobes within 4 cm of the tail mark. Check that top and bottom distances from the midline are close at three points and that all measurements use centimetres.