Drawing Fur: Direction, Clumps, and Shading Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a rounded form, draw two flow arrows that curve from the top toward the bottom right. Then draw four short-fur clumps along the lower arrow. Each clump should be wide at the root and narrow at the tip.

Answer: Two arrows curve smoothly from top to bottom right without sharp crossings. Four short clumps sit along the lower arrow, each tapered from root to tip and following the arrow direction.

Reason: The arrows establish a clear path, and the clumps are built as tapered groups that agree with that path. Short fur keeps the clumps compact and close to the surface.

Check: Trace each clump with a finger: it should start wide at the root and narrow toward the tip. Confirm that no clump points away from the lower arrow.

Task 2

Draw a long-fur panel with three overlapping clumps along one flow path. Leave a small gap between each clump. Then shade the gaps with a darker value and keep the tips lighter.

Answer: Three long clumps overlap slightly along the flow path, with visible gaps between groups. Darker shading fills the gaps, and the tips remain lighter.

Reason: Long fur needs more separation at the tips, and shading the gaps helps the clumps read as layered rather than flat.

Check: Squint at the panel: the three clumps should still be distinguishable, and the darkest areas should sit between clumps, not across the tips.

Task 3

Create a short-fur drill row of six strokes that all taper from root to tip and follow one direction. Then create a second row of four longer strokes for long fur, keeping the same direction.

Answer: The first row has six short tapered strokes in one direction. The second row has four longer tapered strokes in the same direction, with more space between them.

Reason: Consistent direction within each row makes the fur read as one coat. The longer strokes in the second row show the difference between short and long fur.

Check: Compare stroke lengths within each row: they should be similar. Check that every stroke tapers and that both rows follow the same direction.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a small fur panel with one flow arrow, three clumps, and shading. Then write one sentence explaining where you placed the darker values and why.

Answer: The panel shows one flow arrow, three tapered clumps following it, and darker values in the gaps and at the roots. The sentence explains that darker values sit between clumps to show depth while tips stay lighter.

Reason: This combines direction, clump construction, and shading in one small panel. The sentence checks that the shading choice is intentional.

Check: Verify that the arrow matches the clump direction, that clumps taper, and that the written sentence matches the actual shading placement.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Direction: strokes follow the planned flow arrows and curve smoothly around the form.
- [ ] Clump construction: clumps are tapered, grouped, and overlap without becoming a solid mass.
- [ ] Stroke consistency: short and long fur drills use consistent stroke length within each row.
- [ ] Shading: darker values sit in gaps and at roots, with lighter tips supporting depth.
- [ ] Readability: squinting at the panel still shows distinct clump shapes and a clear flow path.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: slightly wavy or broken strokes are acceptable if direction and clumping remain readable.

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