Drawing a Sunrise: Horizon, Sky Bands, and Sun Rays

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A 24 cm tall sheet has a horizon 8 cm from the bottom. How many centimeters of sky are above the horizon?

Answer: 16 cm

Reason: Subtract the horizon height from the sheet height: 24 minus 8 equals 16.

Check: Measure the sky region on the sheet; it should match 16 cm.

Task 2

A sky is 12 cm tall and is divided into three equal bands. What is each band height, and which band is lightest?

Answer: Each band is 4 cm; the lowest band is lightest.

Reason: 12 divided by 3 equals 4. The convention places the lightest tone nearest the horizon.

Check: Measure each band; confirm the lowest band has the lightest tone.

Task 3

A sun center is 10 cm from the left edge on a 30 cm wide sheet. How far is it from the right edge?

Answer: 20 cm

Reason: Subtract the left distance from the width: 30 minus 10 equals 20.

Check: Measure from the sun center to the right edge; it should be 20 cm.

Task 4

A plate has four sky bands of 3 cm, 3 cm, 4 cm, and 4 cm from horizon upward. What is the total sky height, and is the band order correct for a sunrise?

Answer: Total sky height is 14 cm; the order is correct if the lowest band is lightest and tones darken upward.

Reason: Add the band heights: 3 plus 3 plus 4 plus 4 equals 14. The sunrise convention requires the lightest band nearest the horizon.

Check: Measure the total sky height and compare band tones from bottom to top.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Horizon line is present, straight, and level.
- [ ] Sun center is on or just above the horizon.
- [ ] Three or four sky bands are present and parallel to the horizon.
- [ ] Band tones progress from lightest at the horizon to darkest at the top.
- [ ] Rays radiate outward from the sun center and are visually distinct.
- [ ] Valid alternatives such as curved rays or a partly hidden sun are accepted if the horizon and band order remain clear.
- [ ] Labels, if used, follow the baseline-to-midline x-height convention.

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