Realistic Horse Drawing: Proportion and Muscle 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 side-view horse measures 20 cm from top of head to bottom of muzzle. Using the hypothetical example ratios, find body length and withers height, then state one shading check.

Answer: One HL equals 20 cm. Body length is about 2.5 HL, so 2.5 times 20 cm equals 50 cm. Withers height is about 2.2 HL, so 2.2 times 20 cm equals 44 cm. Shading check: every shaded zone must name a muscle region and follow the stated light direction.