Pencil Animal Drawing: Tonal Layering and Fur Stroke Direction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On scrap paper, make a five-step value scale in a 5 cm by 1 cm rectangle using white paper, 2H, HB, 2B, and 4B. Label each patch. Then draw a 6 cm by 8 cm generic animal head oval and mark a light arrow from the upper right.

Answer: A labeled five-patch scale from white paper through 2H, HB, 2B, and 4B, plus a head oval with an upper-right light arrow.

Reason: The scale establishes checkable values; the arrow sets the light source before shading.

Check: Compare each patch to its label and confirm the arrow points from the upper right. The 2H patch should be lighter than HB, HB lighter than 2B, and 2B lighter than 4B.

Task 2

Draw a 4 cm by 3 cm muzzle oval under a head oval. Apply HB base, then 2B midtone on the lower half, then 4B dark under the muzzle. Add ten fur strokes from root to tip flowing downward.

Answer: A muzzle with three tonal layers and ten downward tapered strokes.

Reason: Layering builds value; downward strokes follow the neck fur direction.

Check: Check that the lower half is darker than the top, the underside is darkest, and all ten strokes point downward. Count the strokes and confirm paper gaps remain visible.

Task 3

Draw two ear shapes on a generic head. Mark base-to-tip arrows. Apply HB light strokes, then 2B strokes in the inner ear shadow, then 4B at the ear base. Leave the outer ear edge unshaded.

Answer: Ears with base-to-tip strokes, a 2B inner shadow, 4B base accent, and an unshaded outer edge.

Reason: Direction arrows control texture; the unshaded edge keeps the light source consistent.

Check: Confirm every stroke follows base to tip and the inner shadow is darker than the outer edge. Compare the inner shadow to the 2B patch and the base accent to the 4B patch.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

On a 15 cm by 20 cm sheet, draw a generic animal head with a neck line. Use the three-pass method: HB base, 2B midtone, 4B dark accent. Add fur strokes on face, ears, and neck. Then compare your darkest patch to 4B and your lightest to white paper.

Answer: A complete generic head with three tonal passes, directional fur strokes, and a value comparison.

Reason: The full sequence tests grade choice, layering, and direction together.

Check: Check that the highlight is white, the neck shadow is darkest, strokes follow root to tip, and the value scale matches the drawing. Confirm the darkest area matches the 4B patch and the lightest area matches white paper.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Value scale includes five labeled patches: white, 2H, HB, 2B, 4B.
- [ ] Light source is marked and the highlight remains unshaded.
- [ ] Three tonal layers are visible: HB base, 2B midtone, 4B dark accent.
- [ ] Fur strokes follow root-to-tip direction with visible paper gaps.
- [ ] Edges are textured, not outlined with a hard line.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: stroke length, spacing, and exact grade choices may vary if the value scale and direction convention are followed.

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