Draw Dreadlocks: Strand Sectioning and Overlap

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a scalp oval 8 cm wide. Place four roots in one row with hypothetical spacing of 2 cm, starting 1 cm from the left edge. Draw four locks with section width 1.5 cm at the root. Label them 1 to 4 and show no overlaps.

Answer: Roots at 1 cm, 3 cm, 5 cm, and 7 cm from the left edge. Four separate sections, each about 1.5 cm wide at the root, taper slightly toward the tip. No section lines cross.

Reason: Spacing 2 cm across 8 cm with a 1 cm start gives four roots that fit inside the oval. Keeping sections separate practices root-to-section ownership.

Check: Measure root distances from the left edge; confirm four labels and zero crossings.

Task 2

Using the same 8 cm oval, draw three locks in a staggered pattern: row one roots at 2 cm and 6 cm, row two root at 4 cm offset downward. Make lock 2 pass in front of lock 1 at one crossing. Label the front and back at the crossing.

Answer: Row one roots at 2 cm and 6 cm; row two root at 4 cm, placed lower. Lock 2 is drawn continuously through the crossing; lock 1 is broken with a small gap. The crossing is labeled front: 2, back: 1.

Reason: Staggering rows avoids a grid look, and the front-lock rule gives a clear overlap decision.

Check: Trace lock 1 and lock 2 from root to tip; confirm lock 2 is unbroken at the crossing and the label matches.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a 12 cm wide oval with six roots in two rows of three, hypothetical spacing 2 cm within each row and row offset 1 cm. Draw all six locks with one planned crossing where lock 5 passes behind lock 3. Add three texture strokes per section.

Answer: Row one roots at 2 cm, 4 cm, and 6 cm; row two roots at 3 cm, 5 cm, and 7 cm, placed lower. Lock 3 is continuous at the crossing; lock 5 is broken with a gap. Each section has three light diagonal strokes. Check: six roots fit inside the 12 cm oval (row one spans 2–6 cm, row two spans 3–7 cm, all within 0–12 cm), and the 1 cm row offset keeps rows staggered rather than aligned.

Reason: Six roots fit the 12 cm oval with 2 cm spacing and a 1 cm offset. The behind rule is the inverse of the front rule and must be labeled.

Check: Count six labeled sections and three strokes per section; confirm lock 3 is unbroken and lock 5 is broken at the crossing.

Task 4

Draw a 10 cm wide oval with five roots in three staggered rows. Row one: A at 2 cm and C at 6 cm from the left edge. Row two, placed lower: B at 4 cm and D at 8 cm. Row three, placed lower still: E at 5 cm. Use a hypothetical section width of 1.2 cm at the root. Show exactly two crossings: lock A crosses in front of lock B near the midpoint of both locks, and lock C crosses behind lock D near the tip of both locks. Lock E crosses no other lock. Vary tip lengths by about one section width and apply the rubric.

Answer: Roots sit at 2 cm (A), 4 cm (B), 6 cm (C), 8 cm (D), and 5 cm (E), all inside the 10 cm oval. Sections are about 1.2 cm wide at the root and taper. At the midpoint crossing A is continuous and B is broken with a small gap; at the tip crossing C is broken with a small gap and D is continuous. Lock E runs from its root to its tip without crossing any other lock. Tips vary in length by about one section width (roughly 1.2 cm), so adjacent tips differ by up to about 1.2 cm.

Reason: Two crossings test consistent application of both front and behind rules. Varying tips prevents a uniform edge.

Check: Trace each labeled lock through both crossings; confirm A is unbroken over B at the midpoint, D is unbroken over C near the tip, E has no crossing, and tip length variation is within one section width.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Roots are staggered and sit inside the scalp boundary.
- [ ] Each lock has one labeled section with a consistent width convention.
- [ ] Overlap order is stated and applied consistently at every crossing.
- [ ] Texture strokes are light and do not hide section boundaries.
- [ ] Tips taper and vary in length by about one section width.
- [ ] Valid alternative conventions are accepted if labeled and consistent.

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