Draw Mercury: Crater Placement and Tonal Shading Steps

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



Draw Mercury: Crater Placement and Tonal Shading Steps

Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: A student draws a circle 10 cm across with light from the upper left. They place a large crater at the center, a medium crater at upper left, and a small crater at lower right. Their terminator curve bows toward the lower right. They shade the shadow side with one uniform dark tone. Identify one improvement and explain how to check it.

Answer: Improvement: replace the uniform dark tone with layered shading. Add a light tone near the terminator, a darker tone toward the lower-right edge, and a narrow transition band just inside the terminator. Check by measuring the circle diameter (10 cm) and confirming that the shadow side shows at least two distinct tone layers while the lit side remains mostly clear. Also confirm that no crater center lies within 5 mm of the terminator curve.