Draw a Beach Sunset: Shoreline and Reflection Steps

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a blank page, draw a horizon line one-third from the top. Place a sun circle two x-heights above the horizon and one x-height left of center. Draw a gentle shoreline curve in the lower third. Add three horizontal reflection bands below the sun that stop at the shoreline. Describe your x-height measurement and the hypothetical values you used.

Answer: A completed drawing with a level horizon in the upper third, a low sun above the horizon, a curved shoreline in the lower third, and three reflection bands centered under the sun and stopping at the shoreline. The x-height measurement is stated, and any numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples.

Reason: The exercise checks the core construction sequence: horizon, sun placement, shoreline, and reflection steps. Using x-height as a personal unit keeps spacing consistent without relying on a universal standard.

Check: Verify that the horizon is level, the sun is above the horizon, the shoreline is curved and in the lower third, and the reflection bands are horizontal and stop at the shoreline. Confirm that numerical values are labeled hypothetical.

Task 2

Draw a beach sunset where the shoreline curves from lower left to middle right. Place the sun above the shoreline curve, slightly right of center. Add four reflection bands that follow the horizontal direction but stay centered under the sun. Shade the upper sky medium and the bottom water dark. List two choices you made and why.

Answer: A drawing with a curved shoreline, a low sun above it, four horizontal reflection bands centered under the sun, medium upper sky, and dark bottom water. The list explains two choices, such as placing the sun right of center to balance the shoreline curve and using four bands to fill the water without overcrowding.

Reason: This exercise practices adapting the shoreline curve while keeping reflection bands horizontal and centered. The tonal guide is applied to sky and water.

Check: Check that the shoreline curve is continuous, the sun is above the shoreline, reflection bands are horizontal and centered under the sun, and the tonal guide is followed. Confirm the two choices are explained.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A draft beach sunset has a straight shoreline, reflection bands that cross the wet sand band, and a sun placed one x-height above the horizon. Identify three problems and describe how to fix each using the guide's conventions.

Answer: Problem one: straight shoreline; fix by drawing a gentle curve in the lower third. Problem two: reflection bands cross the wet sand band; fix by stopping each band at the shoreline. Problem three: sun too low; fix by placing the sun center about two x-heights above the horizon.

Reason: The exercise tests error identification and correction using the guide's construction and reflection rules.

Check: Verify that each problem matches a listed mistake and that each fix references the correct convention, such as x-height spacing or stopping reflection at the shoreline.

Task 4

Draw a beach sunset with a horizon, low sun, curved shoreline, and five reflection bands. Use a three-tone guide. Then write a short check: does the drawing stay within the brief, and are the reflection bands centered under the sun? Include your x-height and any hypothetical numerical values.

Answer: A completed drawing with all required elements and a short check confirming the brief is met and reflection bands are centered. The x-height and hypothetical values are included.

Reason: This exercise combines construction, tonal shading, and self-checking. It reinforces the boundary of the brief and the reflection alignment rule.

Check: Confirm the drawing includes horizon, sun, shoreline, and five reflection bands; the brief is respected; reflection bands are centered under the sun; and x-height plus hypothetical values are stated.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Horizon is level and placed in the upper third.
- [ ] Sun is low, above the horizon, and roughly centered or slightly off-center.
- [ ] Shoreline is a gentle curve in the lower third and does not cross the sun.
- [ ] Reflection bands are horizontal, centered under the sun, and stop at the shoreline.
- [ ] Tonal guide uses light, medium, and dark tones without pure black shadows.
- [ ] Construction lines are erased or faint.
- [ ] Drawing stays within the beach sunset brief: no mountains, sunrise variants, or full landscape composition.

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