Black Jaguar Drawing: Fur and Anatomy Studies

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A study outline has a head-length unit of 2.5 cm. The torso is drawn 7.5 cm long and the legs 5 cm from shoulder to paw. Using the hypothetical proportions in this lesson, check the torso and legs in head-length units and state whether they match.

Answer: Torso: 7.5 divided by 2.5 equals 3 head-length units, matching the hypothetical torso. Legs: 5 divided by 2.5 equals 2 head-length units, matching the hypothetical legs. Both match.

Reason: Divide each measured length by the head-length unit to convert to units, then compare with the hypothetical three-unit torso and two-unit legs.

Check: Recompute both divisions and confirm the unit counts before accepting the match.

Task 2

On a fur-direction study, a student draws arrows down the neck, then straight across the ribcage, then straight down the hindquarter. Describe one correction that makes the arrows follow the body form better.

Answer: Curve the ribcage arrows around the barrel and curve the hindquarter arrows toward the knee so they wrap the form instead of running straight across it.

Reason: Fur arrows should follow contours; straight cross-body arrows ignore the barrel and hip masses, while curved arrows describe them.

Check: Trace each arrow with your finger and confirm it curves with the underlying mass rather than cutting across it.

Task 3

A shaded black jaguar looks like a flat dark blob. The student used one even tone everywhere and no eraser. Name two tonal steps to add separation.

Answer: Add darker layers in shadow zones under the chin, belly, between forelegs, and hind-leg fold, and lift thin highlights along the head top, shoulder ridge, back, and outer hindquarter with a kneaded eraser.

Reason: Separation comes from value contrast: darker shadows and lighter lit ridges break the single tone into readable masses.

Check: Squint at the drawing; separate masses should remain visible rather than merging into one dark shape.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A final drawing has correct proportions and fur flow but the face is a dark smudge. Describe a simple face treatment that keeps the eye and muzzle readable on a black coat.

Answer: Leave a small lighter ring around the eye with a dark pupil, and suggest the muzzle with a slightly lighter tone than the cheeks, using short strokes.

Reason: A readable face needs a clear eye and a muzzle tone distinct from the cheeks; short strokes keep the face simple while the body carries the fur detail.

Check: Check that the eye ring and pupil are distinguishable and that the muzzle tone is visibly lighter than the cheek tone.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body proportions use head-length units and joint landmarks consistently.
- [ ] Fur-direction arrows follow the coat flow and wrap around body contours.
- [ ] Tonal shading uses at least three passes with darkest values in shadow zones.
- [ ] Highlights are lifted along lit ridges and keep body masses separate.
- [ ] Face and paws are simplified but readable, with a clear eye and muzzle.
- [ ] Labels use consistent print lettering with x-height from baseline to midline; valid alternative letter styles are accepted if consistent.

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