Draw a Bush: Foliage Clumps and Branch Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 12 cm by 18 cm page, plan a bush 9 cm tall with a widest spread of about 6 cm. Draw a branch skeleton with four main branches and mark five branch tips. Do not add foliage yet.

Answer: A light ground line, a short trunk base, four main branches that fork into smaller stems, and five marked tips. The widest spread measures about 6 cm and the height about 9 cm.

Reason: The skeleton must support the planned clumps. Four main branches with forks give enough tips for five clumps, and the two-thirds spread convention keeps the bush proportionate.

Check: Measure the height and widest spread with a ruler. Count four main branches and five marked tips. Confirm forks are visible.

Task 2

Using the skeleton from the previous exercise, wrap five foliage clumps around the marked tips. Make two clumps large, two medium, and one small. Let at least two clumps overlap.

Answer: Five soft lobed masses attached to the marked tips, with two large central clumps, two medium side clumps, and one small top clump. At least two edges cross in front of another clump.

Reason: Overlapping masses create depth, and varied sizes prevent a uniform row of circles. Attaching clumps to marked tips keeps the structure deliberate.

Check: Count five clumps and confirm the size grouping. Trace at least two overlap crossings. Check that each clump touches a marked tip.

Task 3

Shade the five-clump bush using three tones. Place light on the upper left, middle on the right, and dark under overlaps and near the trunk. Keep dark tone under one-third of the bush area.

Answer: Each clump shaded as one mass with light upper left, middle right, and dark under overlaps and near the trunk. Dark tone covers less than one-third of the bush area.

Reason: Shading by mass keeps the silhouette readable, and limiting dark tone prevents the bush from becoming a dark blob.

Check: Estimate the dark-tone area by dividing the bush into three equal parts; dark should not fill more than one part. Confirm each clump has all three tones.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Refine the silhouette of the shaded bush with small irregular notches. Then write one sentence explaining how your branch skeleton is still visible in the final drawing.

Answer: The silhouette has small irregular notches rather than a smooth outline. The sentence explains that a few branch lines enter the clumps and stop where foliage would hide them, so the structure remains readable.

Reason: Notches suggest foliage edges without turning the drawing into individual leaves. Stopping branch lines inside clumps preserves the skeleton without over-diagramming.

Check: Check that the outer edge is not a smooth circle. Confirm at least two branch lines enter clumps and stop. Read the sentence and verify it matches the drawing.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Branch skeleton shows at least three main branches with visible forks.
- [ ] Foliage clumps are separate overlapping masses, not one outline.
- [ ] Clump sizes vary, with larger masses near the center.
- [ ] Branch lines stop where foliage would hide them.
- [ ] Three tones are used consistently: light, middle, dark.
- [ ] Dark tone covers less than about one-third of the bush area (hypothetical guideline).
- [ ] Silhouette is irregular rather than a smooth circle.
- [ ] Valid alternative leaf styles are accepted if mass and overlap remain clear.

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