Hand Circle Method Drawing Tutorial: Build a Hand from a Palm Circle

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A palm circle is 5 cm across. The middle finger arc is 6 cm, the index arc is 5.5 cm, the ring arc is 5.5 cm, and the little finger arc is 4 cm. Is the middle finger the longest? Show the comparison.

Answer: Yes. 6 cm is greater than 5.5 cm and greater than 4 cm, so the middle finger is the longest.

Reason: Compare the arc lengths directly using the same unit, centimeters. The middle finger arc is 6 cm, which is larger than every other listed arc.

Check: List the four lengths in order: 6, 5.5, 5.5, 4. Confirm that 6 is the largest value.

Task 2

A hand drawing uses a palm circle 4 cm across and a thumb placed at 45 degrees from the side. The index finger arc is 4.5 cm and the thumb arc is 3 cm. Does the thumb leave space between itself and the index finger? Explain using the angle and lengths.

Answer: Yes, the 45-degree angle separates the thumb from the index finger, and the shorter 3 cm thumb arc keeps it from crossing the 4.5 cm index arc.

Reason: The thumb starts at the side of the palm circle and travels outward at an angle. Because the thumb arc is shorter than the index arc and starts from a different point, the two shapes do not overlap in this example.

Check: Trace the thumb from the side of the circle and confirm it does not cross the index finger arc. Check that the thumb arc is shorter than the index arc.

Task 3

A student draws four fingers with arcs of 5 cm, 5 cm, 5 cm, and 5 cm on a 4 cm palm circle. Name one proportion problem and one fix using the circle method.

Answer: The fingers are all the same length, so the hand lacks natural variation. Fix: shorten the little finger to about 3.5 cm and keep the middle finger at about 5 cm, using hypothetical proportions.

Reason: The circle method expects the middle finger to be longest and the little finger to be shortest in most open poses. Equal lengths make the hand look stiff and less readable.

Check: Measure each arc and confirm that at least the little finger is shorter than the middle finger. Recheck that all arcs still connect.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A pointing hand uses a palm circle 4 cm across. The pointing finger arc is 6 cm, and the other three finger arcs are 3 cm each. The thumb is at 45 degrees from the side. Is the pointing finger clearly longer than the others? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: Yes. The pointing finger is 6 cm, and the other fingers are 3 cm each. 6 cm is 3 cm longer than each of the other fingers.

Reason: Subtract the shorter arc from the pointing arc: 6 minus 3 equals 3. The difference is clear and supports the pointing pose.

Check: Compare 6 cm with each 3 cm arc. Confirm the difference is 3 cm and that the thumb angle still leaves space beside the pointing finger.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Palm circle is present and clearly represents the palm mass.
- [ ] Finger arcs are connected and follow the chosen pose.
- [ ] Middle finger is longer than the little finger, or the difference is explained by the pose.
- [ ] Thumb is attached at an angle from the side of the palm circle.
- [ ] Proportions are checkable with simple arithmetic and consistent units.
- [ ] Valid alternative hand shapes are accepted if the construction logic is clear.

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