Realistic Sea Turtle Drawing: Shell Scutes and Flipper Construction

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A student draws a sea turtle with shell width 10 cm and shell height 8 cm. The head length is 4 cm, front flipper length is 4 cm, and rear flipper length is 2 cm. Using the lesson's hypothetical targets, identify which proportions need adjustment and give corrected target lengths.

Answer: Shell width-to-height ratio is 10 divided by 8, or 1.25, which is taller than the target 1.4; to match the target, height would be about 7.1 cm (10 divided by 1.4). Head target is one-third of 10 cm, about 3.3 cm, so 4 cm is slightly large. Front flipper target is half of 10 cm, 5 cm, so 4 cm is short. Rear flipper target is one-quarter of 10 cm, 2.5 cm, so 2 cm is slightly short. Corrected targets: shell height about 7.1 cm, head about 3.3 cm, front flippers about 5 cm, rear flippers about 2.5 cm.