Drawing Seasons: One Tree, Four Panels

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a four-panel plate. Use a key with oval leaf marks, circle blossom marks and triangle fruit marks. Spring: blossom and rain cloud. Summer: full leaf and sun. Autumn: fruit marks, leaf marks, falling leaves and wind line. Winter: bare branches and snowflake. Keep trunk base at the same height in all panels.

Answer: A four-panel plate with consistent trunk base, one label per panel, one weather cue per panel, and marks matching the key, including fruit marks in the Autumn panel.

Reason: The task checks that the same tree is drawn four times with only seasonal cues changing, including the fruit state in Autumn. Consistency of trunk and marks makes the sequence readable.

Check: Measure trunk base height in each panel with a ruler and compare. Confirm each panel has exactly one season label and one weather cue. Check marks against the key.

Task 2

A plate has Spring with blossom and sun, Summer with full leaf and rain cloud, Autumn with bare branches and wind line, Winter with snowflake and leaf marks. Identify the errors and state fixes.

Answer: Spring weather cue is wrong for the stated convention; Summer weather cue is wrong; Autumn tree state is wrong; Winter mixes leaf marks with snow.

Reason: Each panel must match its label and the convention. Spring should have rain, Summer sun, Autumn fruit with falling leaves, Winter bare branches without leaf marks.

Check: Compare each panel label to its tree state and weather cue using the key. Remove or replace any cue that belongs to another season.

Task 3

You have panels 6 cm wide and 8 cm tall. You want a 1 cm margin at the top of each panel for the label. Where should the tree canopy top start, and how do you check it?

Answer: The canopy top should start at least 1 cm below the top edge, leaving 7 cm of drawing height. Check by measuring from the top edge to the canopy top in each panel.

Reason: The margin reserves space for the label so it does not overlap the tree. The remaining height is 8 cm minus 1 cm equals 7 cm. These values are hypothetical examples.

Check: Use a ruler to measure the top margin in each panel and confirm it is at least 1 cm. Confirm the canopy top is below the label area.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Design a key for a plate where fruit is shown as small triangles and snow as short horizontal lines. Then describe one valid alternative key and explain why it is acceptable.

Answer: Key: leaf equals oval, blossom equals circle, fruit equals triangle, snow equals short horizontal line. Alternative: leaf equals dash, blossom equals dot, fruit equals small square, snow equals asterisk. It is acceptable because the marks are defined and used consistently.

Reason: The convention is defined by the key, not by a single universal shape. Any consistent set of marks that distinguishes the cues is valid.

Check: Read the key and check that every mark used in the panels appears in the key. Confirm no two cues use the same mark.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Four labeled panels are present and in seasonal order.
- [ ] Trunk position and height are consistent across panels.
- [ ] Each panel shows the correct tree state: blossom, full leaf, fruit with falling leaves, or bare branch.
- [ ] One weather cue per panel matches the season.
- [ ] A written key defines leaf, blossom, fruit and snow marks.
- [ ] Labels, tree states and weather cues agree with no mixed seasons.
- [ ] Valid alternative conventions are accepted if stated in the key.

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