Kudzu Drawing: Leaf, Vine and Tendril Skills

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a single kudzu leaf in a 6 cm by 6 cm square. Use a junction point, three leaflets and veins. State the approximate width of the center leaflet.

Answer: A three-leaflet leaf with a visible junction, center leaflet pointing outward, two side leaflets angled away, and veins in each leaflet. Example center leaflet width: about 2 cm.

Reason: The compound structure is the key feature. Separating the leaflets at the junction makes the leaf read as kudzu rather than a simple heart shape.

Check: Measure the center leaflet width. If the square is 6 cm wide and the leaflet is about 2 cm, it occupies about one third of the width. Confirm three leaflets meet at one point.

Task 2

Draw a vine segment 8 cm long with three alternating S-bends. Add two short side branches and one leaf stalk. State how many direction changes the vine has.

Answer: A smooth vine with three S-bends, two side branches at outer bends, and one short leaf stalk. Direction changes: at least three.

Reason: Alternating bends create a wandering path. Side branches and a stalk show how leaves attach without crossing the main vine.

Check: Count the bends where the vine changes direction. Confirm the vine length is close to 8 cm and that no branch floats free.

Task 3

Draw a tendril attached to a vine bend. Use a wide first half-turn, a narrower second half-turn and a tight final quarter-turn. State the approximate diameter of the first turn.

Answer: A spiral tendril that tightens toward the tip, attached at a bend, with a first turn about 1.5 cm across as a hypothetical example.

Reason: Gradual tightening distinguishes a tendril from a circle. A thinner line than the vine keeps the spiral readable.

Check: Measure the first turn diameter and compare it with the final turn. The final turn should be visibly smaller. Confirm the spiral does not close into a circle.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

In a 12 cm by 8 cm panel, combine one leaf, one vine with two bends and one tendril. Use a leaf width of about 4 cm. State one arithmetic check for remaining space.

Answer: A composition with a three-leaflet leaf, a two-bend vine and a tightening tendril connected logically. Arithmetic check: 12 cm panel width minus 4 cm leaf width leaves 8 cm for the vine and tendril.

Reason: Combining parts tests whether the conventions hold together. The arithmetic check keeps proportions deliberate rather than accidental.

Check: Measure the leaf width and subtract it from the panel width. Confirm the vine and tendril fit in the remaining space and that all parts follow the stated conventions.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Leaf shows three distinct leaflets meeting at one junction.
- [ ] Each leaflet has a center vein and at least two side veins.
- [ ] Vine path changes direction at least twice with smooth curves.
- [ ] Tendril spiral tightens toward the tip and does not close into a circle.
- [ ] Tendril line is thinner than the vine line.
- [ ] Parts connect logically: leaves and tendrils attach to the vine.
- [ ] Any stated measurements are labeled as examples and checked with simple arithmetic.

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