Rainforest Drawing Plants: Leaves, Ferns and Vines

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a broad leaf 10 cm long with a midrib curved to the left and 5 veins per side. Describe the shape you produce.

Answer: A teardrop or oval blade with a left-curving midrib, 5 veins per side angled toward the tip, and veins stopping about 5 mm short of the edge.

Reason: The midrib curve sets the leaf droop, and the vein count and margin keep the blade readable as a flat surface.

Check: Measure the leaf length on your paper; count 5 veins per side; confirm each vein stops before the contour.

Task 2

Draw a fern frond 12 cm long with 7 leaflet pairs, largest at the bottom and smallest at the tip. Describe the spacing.

Answer: A curved rachis with 7 leaflet pairs per side, each pair smaller than the one below, and a small gap between each leaflet and the rachis.

Reason: Repeated leaflets of decreasing size create the fern rhythm, and gaps prevent a solid comb look.

Check: Count 7 pairs per side; compare the bottom pair to the top pair to confirm size decrease; check for visible gaps at the rachis.

Task 3

Draw a hanging vine 15 cm long with an S-curve, 2 side branches and 8 small leaves. Describe where the leaves sit.

Answer: A drooping S-curve with 2 short side branches and 8 small leaves spaced about 2 cm apart along the vine and branches.

Reason: The S-curve suggests sag, and small leaves at intervals keep the vine reading as trailing rather than bushy.

Check: Measure the vine length; count 2 side branches and 8 leaves; confirm leaves are small relative to vine length.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Combine one broad leaf, one fern frond and one hanging vine in a single composition with slight overlaps. Describe the overlap order.

Answer: The broad leaf sits at the top, the fern frond beside it, and the vine hangs below; overlaps are slight so each form keeps its key structure visible.

Reason: Slight overlaps connect the composition without hiding the midrib, leaflets or trailing vine line.

Check: Check that each form still shows its key structure; confirm no form is completely hidden; verify final contours are firm and guides erased.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Broad leaf has a visible midrib and side veins that stop short of the contour.
- [ ] Fern frond shows repeated leaflets of decreasing size toward the tip with small gaps at the rachis.
- [ ] Vine is a continuous drooping line with small leaves at intervals and at least one side branch.
- [ ] Final contour lines are firm and continuous; construction lines are erased or very light.
- [ ] Labels use consistent handwriting; x-height is baseline to midline and letter style may vary.

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