Drawing a Deer Step by Step: Body, Legs, and Branching Antlers

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 15 cm tall sheet, set one unit to 3 cm (the baseline-to-midline distance). Draw a deer with a body ellipse 1 x-height unit tall (3 cm), four leg tubes, and antlers with two tines per antler. State your branch count.

Answer: A deer drawing with a 3 cm torso ellipse (x-height = 1 unit = 3 cm), four tapered leg tubes on the ground line, a head wedge smaller than 3 cm, and antlers with two tines each; branch count stated as two.

Reason: The x-height convention ties body height to the sheet; leg tubes and ground line ensure standing posture; stating branch count makes antler structure checkable.

Check: Measure torso height against 3 cm (1 x-height unit); verify four hooves touch the ground line; count two tines per antler.

Task 2

Draw a deer facing right with a body ellipse 1 x-height unit tall (for example, 4 cm if one unit = 4 cm) and antlers with four tines per antler. Keep the head smaller than the torso height.

Answer: A right-facing deer with a torso ellipse 1 x-height unit tall (for example, 4 cm), four leg tubes, a head wedge shorter than the torso height, and antlers with four tines each.

Reason: Facing direction affects leg attachment and antler orientation; a stated branch count keeps the antlers deliberate; head size is checked against torso height.

Check: Confirm facing direction, measure torso height against your stated unit (for example, 4 cm), count four tines per antler, and compare head height to torso height.

Task 3

Draw a deer with a body ellipse 1 x-height unit tall (for example, 5 cm if one unit = 5 cm) and legs 6 cm long. Place all hooves on a ground line. Add antlers with three tines per antler and label the main beam.

Answer: A deer with a torso ellipse 1 x-height unit tall (for example, 5 cm), 6 cm leg tubes, hooves on the ground line, three tines per antler, and a labeled main beam.

Reason: Leg length is set independently of body height; the ground line checks standing posture; labeling the main beam clarifies antler structure.

Check: Measure torso height against your stated unit (for example, 5 cm), measure leg tubes near 6 cm, verify hooves on the ground line, count three tines per antler, and confirm the main beam label.

Drawing a Deer Step by Step: Body, Legs, and Branching Antlers

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Redraw the deer from the worked example but change the antler branch count to five tines per antler. Keep the body ellipse 1 x-height unit tall (4 cm in the worked example) and all hooves on the ground line.

Answer: A deer matching the worked example's body and legs but with five tines per antler; branch count stated as five.

Reason: Changing only the branch count tests whether antler structure is deliberate and independent of body construction; the rubric accepts valid alternative counts.

Check: Compare body and leg measurements to the worked example (torso 4 cm = 1 x-height unit, legs about 5 cm), count five tines per antler, and verify hooves on the ground line.

Drawing a Deer Step by Step: Body, Legs, and Branching Antlers

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body ellipse height matches the stated x-height within a small margin.
- [ ] Four leg tubes taper toward hooves and all hooves meet the ground line.
- [ ] Neck and head connect cleanly; head is smaller than torso height.
- [ ] Antlers show a stated branch count with visible main beam and tines.
- [ ] Construction guides are erased and final lines are clear.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different branch counts, leg angles, ear shapes, and facing direction, provided the deer reads coherently.

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