Draw a Snowy Landscape: Drifts, Bare Trees, and Horizon Layers

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A page is 24 cm tall. You place the horizon line 16 cm from the bottom. How many centimeters tall is the band above the horizon line?

Answer: 8 cm.

Reason: The page height is 24 cm and the horizon is 16 cm from the bottom, so the band above is 24 minus 16 equals 8 cm.

Check: Add the two bands: 16 cm plus 8 cm equals 24 cm, matching the page height.

Task 2

You draw three foreground drifts. Drift A overlaps Drift B, and Drift B overlaps Drift C. Which drift appears closest to the viewer, and which line should be erased where they overlap?

Answer: Drift A appears closest. Erase the part of Drift B's outline that falls inside Drift A.

Reason: The drift drawn on top overlaps the one beneath, so A is closest. The overlapped line inside the closer shape is removed to show depth.

Check: Trace the overlap: the closer drift's full curve remains unbroken, and the farther drift's line stops at the closer drift's edge.

Task 3

A midground tree trunk is 1.2 cm wide at its base and 0.4 cm wide at its top. What is the taper difference in centimeters?

Answer: 0.8 cm.

Reason: Subtract the top width from the base width: 1.2 minus 0.4 equals 0.8 cm.

Check: Add the difference back to the top width: 0.4 plus 0.8 equals 1.2 cm, matching the base width.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Your tonal key shows snow shadow as light gray and snow highlight as paper white. A drift's lower side is shaded light gray and its top is left white. A horizon tree line is drawn lighter than the midground trees. Which element should read as farthest away, and why?

Answer: The horizon tree line should read as farthest away because it is the lightest and simplest element.

Reason: Lighter tone and less detail push an element back in the layer order, while darker, more detailed midground trees sit forward.

Check: Compare tones across the three bands: foreground drifts have the most contour detail, midground trees are darker, and the horizon line is lightest.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Foreground contains at least two overlapping snowdrifts with soft, fading contour lines.
- [ ] Snow shadow and snow highlight are distinguishable using a light gray and paper white.
- [ ] Midground bare trees show visible branch taper from join to tip.
- [ ] Horizon tree line is lighter and simpler than the midground cluster.
- [ ] Layer order is correct: foreground drifts overlap midground tree bases, and midground sits in front of the horizon line.
- [ ] Any handwritten labels are legible under the baseline-to-midline x-height convention; alternative letter styles are acceptable.

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