Vegetation Drawing: Leaf Clusters, Branching, and Ground Cover

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw one leaf cluster using a rounded envelope. Mark a baseline and a midline 2 cm apart (hypothetical example). Fill the envelope with eight leaf marks that vary in angle. Check the cluster at arm's length.

Answer: A rounded envelope with its bottom on the baseline and top near the midline, filled with eight varied leaf marks, reading as one mass at arm's length.

Reason: The envelope fixes the cluster shape and the baseline-to-midline gap fixes the x-height proportion. Varied internal marks keep the cluster from looking like a grid while the outer mass stays readable.

Check: Measure the envelope height against the 2 cm gap; it should be close. At arm's length, confirm the cluster reads as one mass and that no two leaf marks are identical in angle and length.

Task 2

Draw a main stem with three secondary branches at different heights. Each branch ends at a planned cluster position. Run the fork test and describe one junction.

Answer: A main stem with three secondary branches, each ending at a cluster position, with every junction showing one clear meeting point and a visible angle.

Reason: Branching structure must support clusters. The fork test catches tangles by requiring a single meeting point and a readable angle at each junction.

Check: Trace each branch to its junction. Confirm two lines meet at one point and the angle is visible. Confirm each branch end matches a planned cluster position.

Task 3

Draw a ground-cover band below a baseline using short overlapping marks. Keep marks shorter than a 1.5 cm cluster x-height (hypothetical example). Use at least three overlapping rows with varied spacing.

Answer: A ground-cover band of short overlapping marks in at least three rows, with varied spacing and marks shorter than 1.5 cm, reading as a surface.

Reason: Ground cover is texture, not a fence. Overlapping rows and varied spacing create a surface, and keeping marks shorter than the cluster x-height keeps the texture subordinate to the vegetation mass.

Check: Measure several marks against the 1.5 cm gap; all should be shorter. At arm's length, confirm the band reads as a surface and that no single row dominates.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw three clusters in a row: sparse, medium, and dense. Use the same envelope shape and x-height for all three. Then draw one foreground cluster and one background cluster, making the foreground larger or more detailed.

Answer: Three clusters with the same envelope and x-height but different internal mark counts, plus a foreground cluster that is larger or more detailed than the background cluster.

Reason: Cluster density controls depth. Keeping the envelope and x-height constant isolates density as the variable, and comparing foreground and background clusters shows how size and detail signal depth.

Check: Compare the three clusters: the dense one should have more marks but still show gaps. Compare foreground and background: the foreground should be larger or more detailed. Confirm all clusters keep the baseline-to-midline proportion.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Leaf clusters keep a readable baseline-to-midline proportion and read as single masses at arm's length.
- [ ] Internal leaf marks vary in angle, length, or spacing; valid alternative styles are accepted.
- [ ] Branch junctions pass the fork test: one clear meeting point and a visible angle.
- [ ] Each cluster sits at or near a branch end, showing structure supports the vegetation.
- [ ] Ground cover uses overlapping rows with varied spacing and reads as a surface.
- [ ] Cluster density shows depth: foreground clusters are larger or more detailed than background clusters.
- [ ] Checks are stated in consistent units and any numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples.

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