Cupid Figure Drawing: Bow, Wings, and Arrow Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 15 cm by 20 cm sheet, set a five-head-height guide with a head height of 2.5 cm. Mark the crown, feet, shoulder line at 1.25 head heights below the crown, and hip line at 3 head heights below the crown. Draw only the guide lines and label the measurements.

Answer: Figure height is 12.5 cm (5 × 2.5 cm). Shoulder line is 3.125 cm below the crown (1.25 × 2.5 cm). Hip line is 7.5 cm below the crown (3 × 2.5 cm). The guide shows a vertical axis, crown, feet, shoulder line, and hip line with labels.

Reason: Multiply the head height by the number of head heights for total height. Multiply the head height by the shoulder and hip multipliers to place the lines. Keep units in centimeters.

Check: Measure each marked distance with a ruler. Confirm the shoulder line is wider than the head and the hip line is narrower than the shoulder line.

Task 2

Draw a relaxed bow on a 10 cm wide space. The bow limb is a shallow arc 8 cm tall. The string is a straight line between the ends. Add a thicker grip in the middle. Describe or draw the bow so the string meets only the ends.

Answer: A shallow arc 8 cm tall with tapered ends, a thicker middle grip, and a straight string connecting the two ends. The string does not cross the limbs except at the ends.

Reason: A relaxed bow keeps the string straight and the limbs gently curved. The grip is thicker for readability. The string must connect only the ends to read as a bow.

Check: Trace the string with a finger: it should touch only the two ends. Check that the arc is shallow and the grip is visibly thicker.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Attach two wings behind the shoulders of a figure whose shoulder width is 6 cm. Place the wing roots 1 cm inside each shoulder end on the back side. Draw overlapping feather shapes that shrink toward the tips. Check that the wings do not cover the bow arm completely.

Answer: Wing roots are placed 1 cm inside each shoulder end on the back side. Feather shapes overlap and shrink toward the tips. The bow arm remains visible.

Reason: Wings attach behind the shoulders, not on the chest. Placing roots inside the shoulder width keeps them attached to the body. Overlapping feathers give a simple wing convention.

Check: Measure 1 cm inside each shoulder end. Confirm the wing roots are on the back side and the bow arm is not fully hidden.

Task 4

Place an arrow for a drawn bow. The bow string is pulled back 4 cm from the relaxed position. Draw a straight arrow shaft 10 cm long with a tip and fletching. Align the arrow with the string and aim direction. Check that the tip is clear of the body by at least 2 cm.

Answer: A straight 10 cm shaft with a tip and fletching, aligned with the pulled string and aim direction. The tip is at least 2 cm clear of the body.

Reason: For a drawn bow, the string is pulled back and the arrow aligns with the string and aim. A straight shaft reads clearly. Keeping the tip clear of the body avoids overlap.

Check: Measure the shaft length and the clearance from the tip to the body. Confirm the shaft is straight and aligned with the string.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Figure axis is straight and proportion guide uses equal head-height units.
- [ ] Shoulder and hip lines are placed consistently with the chosen proportion.
- [ ] Bow has a curved limb, thicker grip, tapered ends, and a string that meets only the ends.
- [ ] Wings attach behind the shoulder line and spread outward without hiding the bow arm completely.
- [ ] Arrow shaft is straight, has a tip and fletching, and aligns with the bow string and aim direction.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different head heights, bow angles, wing feather conventions, and relaxed or drawn bow variants, provided the construction checks hold.

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