Drawing a Buffalo Head: Horn Curve, Muzzle Shape and Eye Placement

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a grid, a skull oval is 8 squares wide. You choose a horn span of 1.5 times the skull width. How many squares wide is the horn span?

Answer: 12 squares wide.

Reason: Multiply skull width by the chosen ratio: 8 times 1.5 equals 12.

Check: Count the squares across both horn tips and confirm the total is 12.

Task 2

A muzzle is drawn 4 squares wide under a skull 8 squares wide. Is the muzzle about half the skull width?

Answer: Yes, 4 is half of 8.

Reason: Compare the two widths using the same unit: 4 divided by 8 equals 0.5.

Check: Measure both widths in squares and divide muzzle width by skull width.

Task 3

An eye is placed 1 square from the outer edge of a skull that is 6 squares wide. Is that about one-third of the way from the outer edge to the midline?

Answer: Yes. The outer edge to midline distance is half the skull width, 3 squares, and one-third of 3 is 1 square.

Reason: The placement rule uses the distance from the outer edge to the midline, not the full skull width. Half of 6 is 3, and 3 divided by 3 equals 1, so an eye 1 square in from the outer edge matches the rule.

Check: Halve the skull width to get the outer-edge-to-midline distance, divide that by 3, and compare the result to the eye distance from the outer edge.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

In a three-quarter view, the far horn curve is drawn the same length as the near horn. What should you change?

Answer: Shorten the far horn curve so it reads as partly hidden.

Reason: In three-quarter view, the far side is foreshortened, so the far horn appears shorter.

Check: Compare near and far horn lengths; the far one should be visibly shorter while keeping the same curve direction.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Horns are smooth curves that leave outward, sweep back and end in rounded tips.
- [ ] Horn span and skull width are compared using one consistent unit.
- [ ] Muzzle is a broad rounded rectangle below the skull with nostrils near the lower corners.
- [ ] Eye is small and placed on the horizontal midline, one-third of the half-width in from the outer edge.
- [ ] Front and three-quarter views use the same stated proportions.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and final outline is clear.
- [ ] Any consistent letter style is accepted; x-height is baseline to midline.

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