Draw a Jumping Fish: Arc, Splash, and Fin Placement

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a waterline 5 cm from the bottom of your page. Draw a shallow arc peaking 8 cm above the waterline. Place one fish at the peak with a dorsal fin upright and a tail pointing down. Add three splash droplets at takeoff.

Answer: A smooth arc from the waterline to 8 cm and back; one fish oval at the peak; dorsal fin on the back; tail fan pointing down; three droplets above the takeoff point near the waterline.

Reason: The shallow arc reads as a short leap. Placing the fish at the peak simplifies the drawing while the droplets mark the takeoff.

Check: Trace the arc for smoothness, confirm the fish body width matches your oval template, and check that droplets sit within 2 cm above the waterline.

Task 2

Draw a taller arc peaking 15 cm above a waterline placed 7 cm from the bottom. Draw the same fish at takeoff and at entry. At takeoff, sweep the dorsal fin backward and angle the tail down. At entry, sweep the dorsal fin forward and angle the tail up. Add two droplets at each splash.

Answer: A tall smooth arc; two fish ovals of equal width, one tilted up at takeoff and one tilted down at entry; dorsal fin swept backward at takeoff and forward at entry; tail down at takeoff and up at entry; two droplets above each splash point.

Reason: The taller arc shows a stronger leap. Changing fin sweep and tail angle between positions shows motion without changing body size.

Check: Compare the two body widths, confirm fin attachment points, and verify droplets are near the waterline, not on the arc.

Draw a Jumping Fish: Arc, Splash, and Fin Placement

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a medium arc peaking 10 cm above the waterline. Place one fish at the peak with a rounded tail instead of a fan. Add a single splash burst of four droplets at entry only. Keep the dorsal fin upright.

Answer: A smooth medium arc; one fish at the peak with a rounded tail attached at the rear; four droplets clustered above the entry point; dorsal fin upright on the back.

Reason: A rounded tail is a valid alternative. A single splash burst still marks the waterline and keeps the drawing simple.

Check: Confirm the rounded tail attaches at the rear and points opposite travel; check that all four droplets sit within 2 cm above the waterline.

Task 4

Draw a shallow arc peaking 6 cm above the waterline. Draw one fish at the peak with a pectoral fin angled out and a dorsal fin swept backward. Add three droplets at takeoff and three at entry. Then score your drawing using the rubric.

Answer: A smooth shallow arc; one fish at the peak; pectoral fin angled out near the head; dorsal fin swept backward; three droplets above each splash point; rubric score recorded for each of the five items.

Reason: The shallow arc and swept-back fin suggest a quick leap. Scoring with the rubric checks arc, body size, fin attachment, splash placement, and clarity.

Check: Use the rubric items as a checklist: smooth arc, equal body size, attached fins, waterline splash, and light guide lines.

Draw a Jumping Fish: Arc, Splash, and Fin Placement

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Arc is smooth and clearly rises and returns to the waterline (0-2).
- [ ] Fish body is the same size at each drawn position (0-2).
- [ ] Fins attach to the body and support the direction of motion (0-2).
- [ ] Splash droplets sit at the waterline and do not cover the fish (0-2).
- [ ] Final drawing is clear and guide lines are lightly erased (0-2).

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