Draw a Rainbow Trout: Body, Fins, and Spot Pattern

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A trout drawing has a nose-to-tail-base length of 20 cm. The deepest body point is 10 cm behind the nose and the body depth there is 8 cm. State whether the body layout meets the lesson's proportional guidance and explain why.

Answer: It does not meet the guidance. The deepest point should be about one-third of the body length behind the nose, which is roughly 6.7 cm for a 20 cm body, not 10 cm. The body depth of 8 cm is 40 percent of the body length, which is deeper than the suggested one-quarter to one-third range.

Reason: The lesson places the deepest point about one-third behind the nose and suggests body depth between one-quarter and one-third of body length. The drawing places the deepest point at half the body length and uses a depth of 0.4 times the length, so both landmarks are outside the guidance.

Check: Divide the nose-to-tail-base length by 3 to estimate the deepest-point position, and divide body depth by body length to check the depth ratio. Compare both results to the stated ranges.

Task 2

A learner places the dorsal fin above the tail base, the adipose fin above the deepest body point, and the anal fin on the back near the dorsal fin. Describe the correct placement for each of these three fins.

Answer: The dorsal fin should sit on the back above the space between the pelvic and anal fin positions, not above the tail base. The adipose fin should sit behind the dorsal fin near the tail base, not above the deepest body point. The anal fin should sit on the belly close to the tail base, not on the back.

Reason: The lesson uses body landmarks: dorsal fin on the back above the pelvic-anal region, adipose fin behind the dorsal fin near the tail base, and anal fin on the belly near the tail base. The learner's placements swap these landmarks.

Check: Point to each fin base and name the body region it touches. Confirm the dorsal fin is on the back, the adipose fin is behind the dorsal fin, and the anal fin is on the belly.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A drawing shows 40 spots arranged in five even rows across the entire body, including the belly. Using the lesson's spot convention, describe two specific changes that would improve the pattern.

Answer: First, remove or greatly reduce spots below the lateral line so the belly is mostly clear. Second, break the even rows by clustering most spots above the lateral line with varied spacing and slightly varied spot size.

Reason: The convention calls for denser spotting above the lateral line, sparser spotting below, irregular spacing, and a mostly clear belly. Even rows across the whole body violate both the density distribution and the irregularity guidance.

Check: Draw a faint lateral line and count spots above and below it. Check that most spots are above, few are below, and that no perfect rows remain.

Task 4

A trout drawing has a body depth of 6 cm at the dorsal fin base. The dorsal fin is drawn 3 cm tall and the adipose fin is drawn 2.5 cm tall. Using the lesson's hypothetical proportions, state whether the fin sizes are consistent with the guidance and give corrected target heights.

Answer: The dorsal fin is too tall. At a 6 cm body depth, one-third is 2 cm, so a hypothetical target dorsal fin height is about 2 cm, not 3 cm. The adipose fin should be clearly smaller than the dorsal fin, so 2.5 cm is too large; a hypothetical target might be about 1 cm or less.

Reason: The lesson suggests dorsal fin height roughly one-third of local body depth and states the adipose fin should be noticeably smaller than the dorsal fin. The drawing uses half the body depth for the dorsal fin and nearly the same height for the adipose fin.

Check: Divide the local body depth by 3 to estimate dorsal fin height. Compare the adipose fin height to the dorsal fin height and confirm it is clearly smaller.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body outline shows a rounded nose, a back curve peaking behind the nose, a shallower belly curve, and a narrow but not pinched tail base.
- [ ] Deepest body point is placed roughly one-third of the body length behind the nose, with body depth between one-quarter and one-third of body length.
- [ ] Dorsal fin base sits on the back above the space between pelvic and anal fin positions, with height roughly one-third of local body depth.
- [ ] Adipose fin is behind the dorsal fin, near the tail base, and clearly smaller than the dorsal fin.
- [ ] Caudal fin attaches at the tail base with a shallow fork or squared edge, not a deep fork.
- [ ] Anal, pelvic, and pectoral fins each have a clear base on the body and are placed according to the landmark descriptions.
- [ ] Spot pattern is denser above the lateral line, sparser below, irregular in spacing, and leaves the belly mostly clear.
- [ ] Any stylistic variation, such as spots on fins or a different spot count, is stated as a convention and applied consistently.

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