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

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A learner draws a trout with an 18 cm nose-to-tail-base length. The deepest body point is 6 cm behind the nose with a body depth of 5 cm. The dorsal fin is drawn 4 cm tall above the deepest point, the adipose fin is drawn in front of the dorsal fin, and spots are placed in even rows across the entire body. Identify the layout errors and state corrections.

Answer: The body proportions are acceptable: depth is about 0.28 of length, which falls within the suggested one-quarter to one-third range, and the deepest point is about one-third behind the nose. The dorsal fin is too tall; at that point it should be about one-third of the 5 cm body depth, so roughly 1.7 cm as a hypothetical target. The adipose fin is misplaced; it should sit behind the dorsal fin near the tail base and be smaller than the dorsal fin. The spot pattern is too uniform; spots should cluster above the lateral line, vary in spacing, and leave the belly mostly clear.