Draw a Tres Leches Cake: Soak, Cream, and Slice Detail

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a whole tres leches cake on an oval plate. Use a flat top ellipse about 8 cm wide and 3 cm tall (hypothetical). Add soak marks only in the central half of the top and a cream band with one swirl. Place a small mint leaf on the cream.

Answer: A short cylinder on an oval plate with a flat top ellipse, central soak dashes, a wavy cream band with one swirl, and a mint leaf touching the cream off-center.

Reason: The flat ellipse keeps the cake from looking like a can. Central soak marks leave the rim clear. The cream band is thinner than the cake height, and the garnish is anchored on the cream.

Check: Measure the top ellipse: height should be about one third of width. Confirm soak marks occupy no more than half the top. Confirm the mint leaf touches the cream and sits inside the cake outline.

Task 2

Draw a slice cross-section of a tres leches cake. The slice is 5 cm long and 4 cm tall (hypothetical). Show a cream band 0.8 cm thick near the top, a soaked base 0.5 cm thick near the bottom, and small dashes in the middle sponge. The curved back should match a flat top ellipse.

Answer: A wedge with a curved back, a thin cream band near the top, a thin soaked base near the bottom, and dashed texture in the middle sponge.

Reason: The cream band is one fifth of the slice height, so the sponge dominates. The base is thinner than the cream band. Dashes in the middle show soak and porosity.

Check: Measure the cream band: it should be about 0.8 cm and clearly thinner than the middle sponge zone. Confirm the base is about 0.5 cm. Check that the curved back is flatter than a semicircle.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a whole cake and a slice on the same plate. The whole cake has a cream topping with two swirls and a strawberry garnish. The slice sits to the right and shows a cream band and soak marks. Keep the slice's cream band thinner than its sponge.

Answer: A whole cake with two cream swirls and a strawberry, plus a slice wedge to the right with a thin cream band and dashed soak marks.

Reason: Placing both on one plate tests consistency of proportions. The slice's cream band must remain thinner than its sponge, and the garnish must not hide all soak texture.

Check: Compare the slice cream band to the slice sponge height: cream should be about one fifth. Confirm the strawberry touches the cream. Confirm soak marks are visible on both the whole cake and the slice.

Task 4

Redraw the slice from exercise 2 on a blank plate, but change the garnish to a small strawberry half. Keep the cream band and soaked base proportions the same. Add three short wavy lines on the slice's top surface to suggest soak reaching the cut edge.

Answer: A slice wedge on a blank plate with a thin cream band, a thin soaked base, dashed middle sponge, three wavy lines on the top surface, and a strawberry half touching the cream.

Reason: Changing the garnish tests placement rules without changing the cross-section proportions. The wavy lines on the top surface connect the soak texture to the cut edge.

Check: Confirm the cream band is still about one fifth of the slice height. Confirm the strawberry half touches the cream and does not float. Count three wavy lines on the top surface and check they are near the cut edge.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Whole cake reads as a short cylinder with a flat top ellipse, not a tall cake or a circle.
- [ ] Soak texture is visible as broken dashes or wavy lines, clustered rather than covering the entire top.
- [ ] Cream topping reads as a soft, uneven layer thinner than the cake height.
- [ ] Garnish is placed on the cream and does not float or overlap the plate.
- [ ] Slice cross-section shows a cream band, a soaked sponge zone, and a base, with the cream band thinner than the sponge.
- [ ] Slice proportions are consistent with the whole cake.
- [ ] Texture convention is consistent and explained by the drawing itself; valid stylistic alternatives are accepted.

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