Draw a Wildfire Scene: Flame Silhouettes, Tree Line, and Smoke Layers

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 15 cm by 20 cm page, draw a ground line at 7 cm from the bottom. Sketch four flame silhouettes with bases on the line and heights 3 cm, 5 cm, 4 cm, and 6 cm. Check that no two outlines match.

Answer: Four flames with bases on the 7 cm line and the stated heights, each with a different outline.

Reason: Varying height and outline prevents repetition. Keeping bases on one line makes the group read as a single fire front.

Check: Measure each height from the ground line. Compare outlines: at least one tip or width must differ between every pair.

Task 2

On a 20 cm tall page, draw a near tree line of six overlapping crowns at 10 cm from the bottom, with each near crown about 3 cm wide. Add a middle band of four smaller crowns at 13 cm, each about 1.5 cm wide. Check that near crowns are larger than middle crowns.

Answer: Six near crowns about 3 cm wide at 10 cm from the bottom, and four middle crowns about 1.5 cm wide at 13 cm, with near crowns visibly larger.

Reason: Larger near trees and smaller middle trees create depth. Overlap within each band makes the line read as a mass.

Check: Measure crown widths: each near crown should be about 3 cm and each middle crown about 1.5 cm, so every near crown is wider than every middle crown. Count overlaps in the near band.

Task 3

Plan three smoke layers on a 20 cm by 28 cm page: high pale at 24 cm from the bottom, middle grey at 18 cm, low dark at 15 cm. The near tree line sits at 14 cm. Describe the drawing order and one gap to leave.

Answer: Draw high pale first, then middle grey, then low dark. Place the low dark layer at 15 cm, just above the 14 cm tree line, overlapping the lower part, and leave a gap in the middle layer so the tree line shows through.

Reason: Drawing pale to dark ensures each new layer sits in front and the dark smoke stays nearest the flames. A gap keeps the tree line visible and prevents the smoke from becoming a solid block.

Check: Confirm the order in your notes. Check that the low dark layer sits above the 14 cm tree line and that at least one tree crown is visible through the middle layer.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

On a 20 cm by 28 cm page, compose a full scene: ground line at 9 cm, three flames with heights 4 cm, 6 cm, and 5 cm, a near tree line at 14 cm, and three smoke layers. Check that one flame tip is uncovered.

Answer: A full scene with the stated measurements, three distinct flames, a near tree line, and three smoke layers, with the 6 cm flame tip clear of smoke.

Reason: The measurements keep the three zones separate. The uncovered tip keeps the fire readable against the smoke.

Check: Measure the ground and tree lines. Count three flame silhouettes. Confirm the tallest flame tip has no smoke strokes over it.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Three flame silhouettes with different outlines are present and bases sit on a ground line.
- [ ] Tree line uses at least two depth bands with overlapping crowns and varied heights.
- [ ] Smoke is drawn in three layers from pale to dark, with broken edges and gaps.
- [ ] At least one flame tip remains uncovered by smoke.
- [ ] Composition uses three horizontal zones with distinct dominant tones.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: colour instead of tone, two smoke layers on small paper, or different crown shapes, provided the depth and layering checks pass.

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