Aztec Dragon Drawing: Feather and Geometric Ornament Steps

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 student draws a serpentine dragon with a head zone of 4 cm, mid-body of 12 cm, and tail of 4 cm on a 20 cm spine. They measure an x-height of 0.5 cm and plan feather length of 1.0 cm and step height of 0.5 cm. Check whether three geometric bands fit with even spacing and whether feather rows can be offset by half a feather width.

Answer: Total spine is 20 cm. Three bands placed behind the head, at mid-body, and near the tail can be spaced at approximately 5 cm intervals along the spine, which is even. Feather length of 1.0 cm equals two x-heights, a consistent multiple. Half a feather width offset is 0.5 cm if feather width is 1.0 cm, which is measurable. The plan is consistent, but the student should measure actual paper and tools before finalizing.