Pencil Fire Drawing: Flame Shapes and Tonal Layering

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a single upright flame 10 cm tall on a 15 cm by 20 cm sheet. Use a 2H envelope, one inner tapering shape, and leave the core white. Add HB mid tones along the outer edge only.

Answer: A pencil flame with a clear tapering silhouette, a white core, and HB tone confined to the outer edge; construction lines faint or erased.

Reason: The task isolates envelope construction and a single tonal layer, so the learner practices shape clarity before adding darker values.

Check: Measure the flame height against the 10 cm target with a ruler; confirm the core is paper-white and the outer edge shows HB tone.

Task 2

Draw two offset flame tongues about 8 cm tall. Use 2H for the pale base tone, HB for mid tones between the tongues, and 2B for the outer silhouette. Keep at least one tip slightly blunted.

Answer: Two distinguishable flame tongues with offset tips, a pale base tone, HB mid tones in the gap, and 2B accents on the outer edge; one tip blunted.

Reason: Offset tongues and a gap test shape variation and tonal separation between adjacent forms.

Check: Verify two separate tongues are visible, the gap contains HB tone, the outer edge is darker than the gap, and one tip is not needle-sharp.

Task 3

Draw a leaning flame 12 cm tall with a crisp edge on one side and a soft fading edge on the other. Use 2H, HB, and 2B in light-to-dark order and leave the brightest core untouched.

Answer: A leaning flame with one crisp silhouette edge, one soft fading edge, a white core, and a clear light-to-dark tonal progression.

Reason: Alternating edge quality prevents a uniform outline and tests controlled pressure at the tips.

Check: Compare the two edges: one should be visibly sharper, the other softer; confirm the core remains lightest and the darkest marks sit at the crisp edge.

Pencil Fire Drawing: Flame Shapes and Tonal Layering

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a clustered flame group of three tongues within a 12 cm by 15 cm area. Use a 2H envelope for the group, HB mid tones between tongues, and 2B only at the outer boundary. Record the pencil grades used and one hypothetical measurement you checked.

Answer: A three-tongue flame cluster with a shared envelope, HB separation between tongues, 2B accents at the outer boundary, and a short note listing pencil grades and one checked measurement.

Reason: Clustering tests envelope planning and tonal separation across multiple shapes while requiring a simple record of process.

Check: Count three tongues, confirm the outer boundary is darkest, verify the note lists grades and a measurement, and check the group fits the stated area.

Pencil Fire Drawing: Flame Shapes and Tonal Layering

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Flame silhouette is clear and includes at least two distinguishable flame shapes or one well-defined tapering form.
- [ ] Tonal order is light to dark: core lightest, mid tones next, outer edges or gaps darkest.
- [ ] Edges vary between crisp and soft rather than forming a uniform outline.
- [ ] Construction lines are removed or faint enough not to distract.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different flame counts, lean directions, and pencil grades are allowed if shape logic and tonal order remain clear.

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