Pencil Forest Drawing: Trunk Texture and Foliage Shading Strokes

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 10 cm by 6 cm test area, make a bark sample for a near trunk and a far trunk. Use 12 strokes for the near trunk and 8 strokes for the far trunk. State one visible difference between the two samples.

Answer: The near trunk sample should use firmer or longer strokes with tighter spacing; the far trunk sample should use lighter or shorter strokes with wider spacing. Any stated difference in pressure, length, or spacing is valid if it matches the samples.

Reason: Distance is communicated by stroke density and pressure. Counting strokes makes the comparison checkable without requiring one exact appearance.

Check: Count the strokes in each sample to confirm 12 and 8, then compare pressure words and spacing written beside each sample.

Task 2

Draw a foliage mass 6 cm wide and 5 cm tall with light from the upper left. Use 15 strokes in the first layer and 8 strokes in the second layer. Place the second layer only on the lower right half. Describe where bare paper should remain most visible.

Answer: Bare paper should remain most visible on the upper left side of the mass, where only the first layer is present. The lower right half should show more overlapping strokes from the second layer.

Reason: A stated light direction creates a checkable relationship between stroke count and side of the mass. The counts are simple and the placement is explicit.

Check: Count 15 first-layer strokes and 8 second-layer strokes, then confirm by eye that the second layer is confined to the lower right half and that the upper left shows more paper.

Pencil Forest Drawing: Trunk Texture and Foliage Shading Strokes

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

In a three-tree frame, the middle trunk has 14 strokes and the nearest trunk has 18 strokes. The farthest trunk should have fewer strokes than the middle trunk. Choose a count for the farthest trunk and explain how the three counts create depth.

Answer: A valid count is any number less than 14, for example 10. The increasing counts from farthest to nearest create depth by making nearer trunks denser and more textured.

Reason: The relationship is arithmetic and checkable: farthest less than middle less than nearest. The exact number is a valid choice as long as the order holds.

Check: Write the three counts on the margin and confirm the inequality farthest < middle < nearest, then compare the visual density of the three trunks.

Task 4

A foliage mass has 20 strokes on its left half and 12 strokes on its right half. The stated light direction is from the right. Is the shading consistent with the light direction? Explain and give a corrected count plan.

Answer: No. If light comes from the right, the right half should be lighter and have fewer strokes. A corrected plan could be 12 strokes on the left half and 20 on the right half, or any pair where the left half has more strokes than the right.

Reason: The check compares stroke counts to the stated light direction. The correction reverses the relationship so the shaded side has more strokes.

Check: Confirm the stated light direction, then check that the half away from the light has the higher stroke count. Count both halves to verify the corrected plan.

Pencil Forest Drawing: Trunk Texture and Foliage Shading Strokes

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Frame and horizon are drawn lightly and remain subordinate to texture strokes.
- [ ] Three trunks are separated and readable as vertical shapes.
- [ ] Trunk strokes vary in length, pressure, or spacing by tree distance, with bare paper visible between sets.
- [ ] Foliage strokes are short and directional, with more layers on the stated shaded side.
- [ ] Stroke convention is stated on the page margin, including pencil grade, pressure words, and light direction.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the stroke choices are deliberate, consistent, and checkable by count or comparison.

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