Rat Simple Drawing: Body Shape, Ear, Snout and Tail Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a side-view rat with a body oval three x-heights long and two x-heights tall. Place the head circle overlapping the front by one third of its width. Add a snout half the head width, an ear one third of the head height on the upper rear quarter, and a tail equal to body length curving in a C shape.

Answer: A side-view rat with a tapered body, overlapping head, short rounded snout, ear on the upper rear quarter, and a tapering C-shaped tail.

Reason: The measurements set the proportions before detail. Overlapping the head prevents a pinched neck, and the short snout keeps the rat from reading as another animal. The C-shaped tail provides a clear identifying curve.

Check: Measure the body oval against your x-height: three long and two tall. Check the head overlap is about one third of the head width. Confirm the snout is about half the head width and the ear sits on the upper rear quarter. Trace the tail to confirm it tapers and curves.

Task 2

Draw a three-quarter-view rat. Keep the body oval two x-heights long and one and a half x-heights tall. Show the near ear fully and the far ear partly hidden behind the head. Add a short snout and a tail curving behind the body in an S shape.

Answer: A three-quarter-view rat with a tapered body, one full ear and one partly hidden ear, a short snout, and an S-shaped tail behind the body.

Reason: In a three-quarter view the head turns, so the far ear is partly occluded. Keeping the body proportions the same preserves the rat silhouette. The S-shaped tail behind the body separates it from the legs.

Check: Check that the body still tapers and the head overlaps. Confirm the near ear is fully visible and the far ear is partly hidden. Verify the snout is short and the tail curves in an S without crossing the legs.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a rat with a body oval two x-heights long and one and a half x-heights tall, but make the tail shorter than the body, about one and a half x-heights long. Curve it in a smooth C and taper it to a point. Keep the snout half the head width and the ear on the upper rear quarter.

Answer: A rat with correct body, head, snout, and ear proportions, and a shorter C-shaped tapering tail.

Reason: Tail length can vary, but the curve and taper are what make it read as a rat tail. A shorter tail tests whether the student relies on shape rather than a fixed length.

Check: Measure the tail against the body: about one and a half x-heights. Confirm the tail curves smoothly and tapers. Check the snout and ear placements against the head circle.

Task 4

Draw two small rats side by side on one page. Rat A is a side view with a C-shaped tail. Rat B is a three-quarter view with an S-shaped tail. Use the same body proportions for both: two x-heights long and one and a half x-heights tall. Label each drawing with the pose and tail shape.

Answer: Two labelled rat drawings: a side view with a C-shaped tail and a three-quarter view with an S-shaped tail, both using the same body proportions.

Reason: Drawing two poses tests whether the construction order transfers. The labels make the pose and tail shape explicit so the check is objective.

Check: Compare both bodies to the stated proportions. Confirm Rat A is a side view with a C tail and Rat B is a three-quarter view with an S tail. Check that both have overlapping heads, short snouts, and ears on the upper rear quarter.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body tapers from wider hips to narrower shoulders.
- [ ] Head circle overlaps the body by roughly one third of its width.
- [ ] Snout is short, rounded, and about half the head width.
- [ ] Nose sits at the snout tip, slightly below the eye line.
- [ ] Ear is on the upper rear quarter of the head and touches the outline.
- [ ] Legs are short and tucked under the body.
- [ ] Tail starts at the rear, curves smoothly, and tapers to a point.
- [ ] Final outline is clear and construction lines are removed or faint.

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