Draw a Rooster: Comb, Tail Feathers, and Body Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A student draws a body oval 8 cm long and 5 cm tall, then places a 2.5 cm head circle centered over the middle of the oval. Using the lesson's placement rule, describe where the head should move and why.

Answer: The head should move forward so it sits over the front third of the body oval, because a centered head makes the silhouette read as a duck rather than a rooster.

Reason: The lesson states the head belongs over the front third of the body. Centering removes the forward-leaning rooster silhouette, so moving the head forward corrects the balance.

Check: Measure the body oval length, divide by three, and confirm the head center lies within the front third nearest the chest.

Task 2

A drawing uses a comb of three bumps, each 1 cm tall, and a wattle 2 cm long. The student's x-height is 1 cm. State whether the wattle is consistent with the x-height convention and give the corrected length if not.

Answer: The wattle is not consistent; it should be about 1 cm long to match one x-height, so the corrected length is 1 cm.

Reason: The lesson sets the wattle at about one x-height. With an x-height of 1 cm, a 2 cm wattle is twice the convention, so it should be shortened to 1 cm.

Check: Compare the wattle length to the recorded x-height; they should be approximately equal.

Task 3

Five tail feathers are drawn from three different starting points on the back of the body. Describe the correction needed and the check you would use after correcting.

Answer: Move all five feathers so they start from one tail base point at the back of the body oval, then check that the fan spreads through a consistent arc and rises above the back line.

Reason: The lesson anchors all tail feathers at one tail base point so the fan reads as a single structure. Multiple starting points break the fan construction.

Check: Trace each feather back to its start; all should meet at the same tail base point, and the fan should rise above the back and extend behind the body.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student's x-height is 0.8 cm. They draw the eye 0.8 cm behind the beak and the comb bumps 0.4 cm tall. Using the lesson's conventions, state whether the eye placement and comb height are consistent, and explain.

Answer: The eye placement is consistent because it is one x-height behind the beak. The comb bumps at 0.4 cm are half the x-height, which is consistent with the hypothetical example of bumps about half an x-height tall.

Reason: The lesson places the eye one x-height behind the beak and gives comb bumps about half an x-height tall as an example. Both values match the student's 0.8 cm x-height.

Check: Measure the eye-to-beak distance and compare it to the recorded x-height; measure one comb bump and compare it to half the x-height.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body oval is tilted with the chest lower than the tail base and sits above the ground line.
- [ ] Head circle is placed over the front third of the body, not centered.
- [ ] Comb is drawn as rounded bumps following the head curve.
- [ ] Wattle hangs below the beak and is consistent with the chosen x-height.
- [ ] Tail feathers all start from one tail base point and spread in a clear fan.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and final outline is clear.
- [ ] Proportions are internally consistent, even if they differ from the hypothetical example values.

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