Draw a Silverback Gorilla: Head, Chest and Knuckle-Walk Pose

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 learner draws a knuckle-walk silverback on a 20 cm tall sheet. They set the shoulder line 18 cm above the ground line and head length at 5 cm. The chest width is 4 cm, and the shoulder line is 2 cm above the hip line. Using the convention that head length is about one-fifth of shoulder height (shoulder line to ground line), chest width is about one and a half head widths, and shoulder-to-hip difference is about one head length, identify the proportion problems and state corrections.

Answer: Head length should be about one-fifth of 18 cm, which is 3.6 cm, but it is 5 cm, so the head is too large. Chest width should be about 1.5 times head width; if head width is roughly 3 cm, chest width should be about 4.5 cm, so 4 cm is slightly narrow. The shoulder-to-hip difference of 2 cm is much less than the corrected head length of about 3.6 cm, so the shoulder mass should be raised or the hips lowered to increase the difference toward about 3.6 cm. Correction: reduce head length toward 3.6 cm, widen the chest slightly toward 4.5 cm, and raise the shoulder mass or lower the hips by roughly 1.6 cm so the shoulder-to-hip difference approaches the corrected head length of about 3.6 cm.