Prawn Drawing: Segmented Shell and Leg Placement

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

In a side view, draw a cephalothorax covered by a carapace, extend a pointed rostrum forward, and add two antennae from the head end. Describe how you will keep the head region distinct from the abdomen.

Answer: The carapace covers the front body region; a rostrum projects forward, and two antennae start at the head. A narrowing abdomen begins behind the carapace with a visible change in outline.

Reason: Separating the cephalothorax from the abdomen prevents the front shell from being mistaken for an abdominal plate.

Check: Trace the outline from rostrum to tail and identify where the carapace ends and the abdomen begins. Confirm both antennae start at the head.

Task 2

Draw an abdomen 12 cm long with six plates. Use five internal boundaries at 2 cm, 4 cm, 6 cm, 8 cm, and 10 cm from the front of the abdomen, then connect the last plate to a tail fan.

Answer: Six abdominal plates are formed by the five boundaries at the specified positions; the final 2 cm ends at the tail fan.

Reason: Five internal boundaries divide a span into six successive plates. The remaining length from 10 cm to 12 cm is the sixth plate.

Check: Count six plates and five internal lines. Confirm the distances leave 2 cm between the final boundary and the tail fan.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

For a giant freshwater prawn practice model, draw five pairs of pereiopods beneath the thorax and keep them separate from the six abdominal plates. Explain how the attachment points differ from abdominal pleopods.

Answer: Five paired, jointed pereiopods attach beneath the thorax. Any smaller abdominal pleopods are drawn separately under the abdomen, and none of the walking-leg pairs is attached to an abdominal plate boundary.

Reason: The cited species guide places pereiopods on the thorax; pleopods are a separate appendage group under the abdomen.

Check: Count five pairs beneath the cephalothorax and trace their attachment points. If pleopods are shown, confirm they are separate and lie under the abdomen.

Task 4

Draw a tail fan at the end of a six-segment abdomen. Include one central telson and a paired set of uropods. State how you check that the fan attaches to the last abdominal plate.

Answer: The sixth and final abdominal plate meets the tail fan; the telson occupies the center, with paired uropods extending on either side.

Reason: The tail fan is a terminal structure, not another abdominal segment. Keeping the central telson and paired uropods distinct makes the tail readable.

Check: Count six abdominal plates before the fan, identify one central telson, and verify that two uropods flank it.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Cephalothorax and abdomen are drawn as distinct body regions.
- [ ] Carapace, rostrum, and antennae are placed at the head end.
- [ ] Abdomen shows six plates and five internal boundaries.
- [ ] Five pereiopod pairs in the cited practice model attach beneath the thorax.
- [ ] Any abdominal pleopods are kept separate from pereiopods.
- [ ] Tail fan has a central telson and paired uropods.
- [ ] Species-specific features are checked against a named reference.

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