Primate Drawing: Body Proportion and Facial Features

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A head oval is 3 cm tall. Using the lesson ratios, calculate the torso height and the standing leg length. Then state the distance from the top of the head to the eye line.

Answer: Torso height = 6 cm; standing leg length = 6 cm; eye line is 1.5 cm from the top.

Reason: Torso is two head heights: 2 × 3 = 6 cm. Standing legs are two head heights: 2 × 3 = 6 cm. Eye line is at the midpoint: 3 ÷ 2 = 1.5 cm.

Check: Verify each value by multiplying or dividing the head height by the stated ratio; confirm units are consistent in cm.

Task 2

A drawing has a head height of 4 cm and a torso height of 6 cm. Is the torso proportion correct according to the lesson? If not, what should the torso height be?

Answer: No; the torso should be 8 cm.

Reason: The lesson ratio is torso = 2 × head height. 2 × 4 = 8 cm, so 6 cm is too short.

Check: Multiply head height by 2 and compare to the given torso height.

Task 3

For a head oval 5 cm tall, find the distance from the top of the head to the nose base and to the mouth line. Use the convention that nose base is two-thirds down and mouth line is halfway between nose base and chin.

Answer: Nose base is about 3.33 cm from the top; mouth line is about 4.17 cm from the top.

Reason: Nose base = (2/3) × 5 ≈ 3.33 cm. Chin is at 5 cm. Mouth line is halfway between 3.33 and 5: (3.33 + 5) ÷ 2 ≈ 4.17 cm.

Check: Calculate two-thirds of head height, then average that value with the chin position; confirm the mouth line lies between nose base and chin.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A sitting primate drawing uses a head height of 2 cm. The visible thigh length is drawn as 1 cm, and the lower leg is 2 cm. The torso is 4 cm. Check whether the torso proportion is correct and whether the leg lengths are plausible for a sitting pose under the lesson convention.

Answer: Torso is correct (4 cm = 2 × 2 cm). The visible thigh of 1 cm is plausible due to foreshortening; the lower leg of 2 cm is consistent with the standing leg ratio of two head heights, though sitting poses may vary. Overall, the proportions are acceptable.

Reason: Torso ratio checks: 2 × 2 = 4 cm. In sitting, thigh foreshortening can shorten the visible length; the lower leg can remain near two head heights. The key is that the pose reads as sitting and the head unit is respected.

Check: Confirm torso = 2 × head height; confirm the lower leg is roughly two head heights or adjusted consistently; check that the hip line is bent and thighs angle forward.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head height is used consistently as the unit for all proportions.
- [ ] Torso height is approximately twice the head height.
- [ ] Arm length is approximately two and a half head heights; leg length is approximately two head heights for standing.
- [ ] Eye line is at the head's midpoint; nose base at two-thirds down; mouth line halfway between nose base and chin.
- [ ] Ears attach at the eye line, just outside the head oval.
- [ ] Sitting pose shows bent hip line and foreshortened thighs; standing pose shows straight legs.
- [ ] Facial features are symmetrical around the midline.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if overall proportion and balance remain coherent.

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