Hawaiian Tribal Tattoo Motifs: Wave Bands and Turtle Patterns

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a wave band 8 cm long and 2 cm high with four equal columns. Mark a baseline and a midline at 1 cm. Draw one wave crest per column that touches the midline at the column center and connects at the baseline.

Answer: An 8 cm by 2 cm rectangle divided into four 2 cm columns. Baseline at bottom, midline at 1 cm. Each column has a curve from bottom-left to midline center to bottom-right. Crests touch midline once and connect smoothly at baselines.

Reason: Four equal columns of 2 cm each sum to 8 cm. The midline at 1 cm is half the height, so crests reach the midline. Shared baseline points ensure connection.

Check: Measure column widths (each 2 cm) and midline height (1 cm). Count that each crest touches the midline once and that adjacent curves meet at the same baseline point.

Task 2

Construct a geometric turtle in a 12 cm by 10 cm rectangle. Shell is an oval 8 cm wide and 5 cm high centered. Head extends 2 cm from the front. Four flippers are trapezoids 2 cm long and 1.5 cm wide at the base. Divide the shell with two straight lines and one curve.

Answer: A centered oval shell 8 cm by 5 cm. Head as a rounded triangle extending 2 cm from the front. Four trapezoid flippers attached at sides. Shell interior divided by two straight lines and one curve, all connecting to the outline.

Reason: Centering the oval leaves 2 cm margins on each side (12-8=4, half is 2) and 2.5 cm top and bottom (10-5=5, half is 2.5). Flippers and head are simple geometric shapes.

Check: Measure shell width and height, margins, head extension, and flipper dimensions. Verify all interior lines end on the shell outline and no gaps exist.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Create a pattern strip 12 cm long and 2 cm high with four equal segments. In each segment, draw a diamond motif that connects to the next at the baseline. Use a midline at 1 cm.

Answer: A 12 cm by 2 cm strip divided into four 3 cm segments. Baseline at bottom, midline at 1 cm. Each segment has a diamond whose bottom point is on the baseline and top point on the midline, with side points at segment edges. Diamonds connect at baseline points.

Reason: Four segments of 3 cm each sum to 12 cm. The diamond uses the midline as its top, so x-height is 1 cm. Shared baseline points create continuity.

Check: Measure segment widths (3 cm) and midline (1 cm). Confirm each diamond is identical and that adjacent diamonds share a baseline point.

Task 4

Combine a wave band and turtle on a 16 cm by 12 cm page. Center a turtle area 8 cm by 6 cm. Place a wave band 10 cm by 2 cm 1 cm above the turtle and another 1 cm below. Align wave crests with the turtle center.

Answer: A 16 cm by 12 cm page. Turtle area 8 cm by 6 cm centered, leaving 4 cm side margins and 3 cm top and bottom margins. Wave bands 10 cm by 2 cm placed 1 cm above and below the turtle area, centered horizontally. Crests aligned with turtle vertical center.

Reason: Centering the turtle area: (16-8)/2=4 cm side margins; (12-6)/2=3 cm top and bottom margins. Wave bands are centered by (16-10)/2=3 cm side margins. Vertical placement uses 1 cm gaps.

Check: Measure all margins and gaps. Confirm wave bands are centered and crests align with the turtle center line. Check line widths are consistent.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Wave band has equal columns and a consistent midline.
- [ ] Each wave crest touches the midline exactly once.
- [ ] Connections at column boundaries are smooth and shared.
- [ ] Turtle shell is an oval divided into closed geometric segments.
- [ ] Flippers are trapezoids attached without gaps.
- [ ] All lines use a consistent width.
- [ ] Pattern strip motifs are identical and connected.
- [ ] Composition margins are measured and consistent.

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