How to Draw Drapery Folds with a Shadow Study

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 hanging cloth is 24 cm wide with four main folds. Estimate average fold width, then describe where dark shadow goes if the light comes from the left.

Answer: Average fold width is 24 divided by 4, which equals 6 cm. This is a hypothetical example. With light from the left, dark shadow goes into valleys and under overlaps on the right side of each fold, while left-facing ridges stay light.

Reason: Dividing total width by fold count gives a starting estimate. Light from the left means right-facing recesses are blocked from the light, so they receive dark value.

Check: Recheck the division: 24 divided by 4 equals 6. Confirm that every dark area touches a valley or overlap and that no left-facing ridge is dark.