Flower Shading Drawing: Light Source, Petal Gradient, Cast Shadow

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A flower has four petals. The light-source arrow is at the top-right pointing down-left. Petal 1 faces the arrow, petal 2 is sideways, petal 3 faces away, and petal 4 is partly hidden behind petal 1. State where the light zone of each visible petal should be and which direction the cast shadow extends.

Answer: Petal 1: light zone on its upper-right edge. Petal 2: thin light strip on its upper-right edge. Petal 3: very narrow light edge on its upper-right side, with a wide dark zone facing away. Petal 4: light zone on its upper-right edge where visible, but its lower-left area is darkened by petal 1's shadow. The cast shadow extends toward the bottom-left.

Reason: Light travels from the arrow, so surfaces facing the top-right are lighter. The cast shadow falls opposite the arrow, toward the bottom-left. A petal hidden behind another receives less light on the side facing the front petal.

Check: Draw a straight line from the arrow through the flower centre; confirm the cast shadow continues on the opposite side. Then check that each light zone faces the arrow.

Task 2

A student shades a flower with the arrow at the top-left but draws the cast shadow toward the top-left. They also give every petal a wide light zone on its top-left edge. Identify two errors and give one correction for each.

Answer: Error 1: the cast shadow points toward the light source. Correction: redraw it toward the bottom-right, opposite the arrow. Error 2: every petal has the same wide light zone, even petals turned away. Correction: narrow the light zone on petals turned away and widen the dark zone on their far side.

Reason: The cast shadow must fall opposite the light source. A petal turned away from the arrow presents less surface to the light, so its light zone should be narrower than a petal facing the arrow.

Check: Use a straight edge from the arrow through the flower to verify shadow direction. Compare each petal's light-zone width with its orientation to the arrow.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A flower is drawn on a page 20 cm wide and 25 cm tall. The flower outline occupies a 10 cm by 10 cm square in the upper-left area. The light-source arrow is at the top-left. Describe a sensible placement for the cast shadow and state one measurement you would check on your own paper before finalising it.

Answer: The cast shadow should extend from the flower base toward the bottom-right, staying within the page. A sensible placement is a shadow roughly 8 cm long and 5 cm wide, fading outward, with a clear gap on the flower's upper-left side. Before finalising, measure the actual distance from the flower base to the page edge on your own paper to confirm the shadow fits.

Reason: The shadow must lie opposite the top-left arrow, so bottom-right is correct. The 8 cm by 5 cm size is a hypothetical example; the real check is whether the shadow fits the measured page.

Check: Measure the flower base to page edge distance with a ruler and compare it with your planned shadow length. Confirm the shadow does not cross the flower's light side.

Task 4

A flower has five petals. The arrow is at the top-left. Petal 1 is nearest the arrow, petal 5 is farthest. A student makes petal 5 lighter overall than petal 1. Is this consistent with the light source? Explain and give a correction.

Answer: No. Petal 1 is nearer the arrow and should generally be lighter overall than petal 5. Correction: lighten petal 1's light and mid zones and darken petal 5's mid and dark zones so the overall tone increases with distance from the arrow.

Reason: With one light source, surfaces closer to and facing the light receive more light. A farther petal turned away should read darker overall, even if it has a small light edge.

Check: Squint at the drawing: the group of petals nearest the arrow should read lighter than the group farthest away. If not, adjust the overall tone of the two groups.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Light-source arrow is drawn and visible.
- [ ] Every petal has a light zone facing the arrow and a dark zone facing away.
- [ ] Each petal shows a gradual gradient rather than three hard stripes.
- [ ] The cast shadow lies opposite the arrow and is darkest at the flower base.
- [ ] A clear gap separates the cast shadow from the flower's light side.
- [ ] Dark accents appear only at overlaps or curled edges, not as outlines around every petal.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when the light logic is consistent, even if petal shapes or stroke styles differ.

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