Octopus Eyes Drawing: Horizontal Slit Pupil and Lidless Socket

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A learner draws a socket oval 8 cm wide and 5 cm tall, an iris 4 cm wide, and a vertical slit 1 cm tall. Identify the main anatomical error and state the fix.

Answer: The pupil is vertical, not horizontal. Redraw it as a horizontal slit about 1 cm wide, centered in the iris, with iris visible on both sides.

Reason: The brief requires a horizontal slit pupil. A vertical slit changes the species cue and fails the anatomy check.

Check: Measure the slit direction against the socket's long axis; it must be parallel, not perpendicular.

Task 2

A drawing shows a socket oval, a horizontal slit, and a thick line above the socket that looks like an eyelid. The skin ridge is missing. Name two fixes.

Answer: Remove the eyelid-like line and add a soft skin ridge outside the socket. Keep the slit and iris visible.

Reason: The octopus eye is lidless, so an eyelid line is incorrect. The skin ridge is a required feature and must surround the socket without covering the slit.

Check: Confirm no lid line remains and that a ridge band sits outside the socket.

Task 3

On a 12 cm by 12 cm page, a socket is 9 cm wide and 6 cm tall. The iris is 5 cm wide. A horizontal slit is 2 cm wide but placed at the top edge of the iris. What is wrong and how do you correct it?

Answer: The slit is not centered; it sits at the top edge. Move it to the middle of the iris so iris is visible above and below, and keep it horizontal.

Reason: A centered slit reads as an opening in the iris. An edge-placed slit looks like a surface mark and weakens the anatomy.

Check: Measure the distance from the slit to the iris top and bottom; the two distances should be roughly equal.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A learner shades the slit gray and puts a bright highlight across it. The socket and ridge are otherwise correct. State the fix and the check.

Answer: Make the slit dark, not gray, and move the highlight onto the iris away from the slit. Check that the highlight does not cross the slit and that the slit reads as an opening.

Reason: The slit is a dark opening, and a highlight across it makes it look like a surface line. The highlight belongs on the iris.

Check: Look at the slit: it should be the darkest part of the eye, and no highlight should touch it.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Horizontal slit pupil is clear and centered in the iris.
- [ ] Socket is lidless: no eyelid line, eyelashes, or eyebrow.
- [ ] Skin ridge surrounds the socket without covering the slit.
- [ ] Iris is visible on both sides of the slit.
- [ ] Shading shows the socket set into the skin.
- [ ] Highlight, if present, does not cross the slit.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: any clean oval socket, any soft ridge width, and any consistent iris color are accepted if the three features remain clear.

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