Desert Lizard Drawing: Body Shape, Toes, and Habitat Pose

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a desert lizard in a basking pose on a straight sand ground line. Use the five-toe fan convention. Before darkening, count toes and check that all four feet touch the ground line.

Answer: A drawing with a rounded wedge head, oval torso, tapering tail, four legs, and five toes per foot. All four feet contact the ground line, belly is low, and head is slightly lifted.

Reason: The basking pose requires ground contact and a low belly. The fan convention makes toe count checkable. The ground line prevents floating feet.

Check: Count toes per foot (should be five each, twenty total). Confirm four feet on the ground line. Confirm tail does not cross legs.

Task 2

Draw a desert lizard in an alert standing pose with the head lifted higher than the hips. Keep the torso about twice the head length. Use five toes per foot and a ground line.

Answer: A drawing with a lifted head, torso ratio near two to one, four feet on the ground line, and five toes per foot in a fan.

Reason: Alert standing still requires ground contact but allows a higher head. The ratio check keeps proportions readable. Toe count remains checkable.

Check: Measure head and torso lengths and compare ratio. Count toes. Confirm all feet touch the ground line and tail is clear of legs.

Task 3

Draw two small desert lizards side by side on the same ground line: one basking low and one alert with head lifted. Use the same five-toe convention for both. Check that neither tail crosses its legs.

Answer: Two lizards on one ground line, each with five toes per foot, tapering tails, and clear leg-tail separation. One has a low belly; the other has a lifted head.

Reason: Comparing two poses on one ground line tests pose control and toe consistency. The tail check prevents overlap errors.

Check: Count toes on both lizards (forty total). Confirm both have four feet on the ground line. Confirm no tail crosses legs.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a desert lizard on a slightly curved rock ground line. Keep the belly close to the rock and all four feet touching the curve. Use five toes per foot and check the torso-to-head ratio.

Answer: A drawing with feet following the curved ground line, belly low, five toes per foot, and a torso about twice the head length.

Reason: A curved ground line tests whether the pose remains habitat-appropriate. The toe and ratio checks stay the same.

Check: Confirm each foot touches the curved line. Count toes. Measure torso and head lengths and compare ratio. Confirm tail is clear of legs.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body outline includes head, torso, and tapering tail.
- [ ] Four legs with foot pads are present.
- [ ] Each foot shows five toes in a fan convention.
- [ ] Torso-to-head ratio is approximately two to one or clearly checked.
- [ ] Pose is habitat-appropriate: four feet on ground line, belly low, head lifted.
- [ ] Tail does not cross the legs.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in toe spacing, tail curve, and head shape are accepted if checks pass.

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