Draw a Housefly: Segmented Body, Six Legs, and Wing Veins

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Describe how to place six legs on a housefly drawing so that each leg is countable and correctly attached.

Answer: Mark three dots on the left side of the thorax and three on the right, then draw a jointed leg from each dot.

Reason: All legs attach to the thorax, and pairing three per side makes the count easy to check.

Check: Count the leg start points: six total, three left and three right, all on the thorax.

Task 2

A drawing shows a head 1.5 cm wide, a thorax 2.5 cm wide, and an abdomen 3 cm long. Is the segment sizing acceptable? Explain.

Answer: Yes. The thorax is wider than the head, and the abdomen is longer than the head but narrower than the thorax.

Reason: The convention requires the thorax to be the widest segment and the abdomen to be elongated but not wider than the thorax.

Check: Compare widths: thorax 2.5 cm is greater than head 1.5 cm; abdomen length 3 cm exceeds head width.

Task 3

Design a wing-vein pattern for one wing using one main vein and three branches. State one rule that keeps the pattern readable.

Answer: Draw a main vein from base to tip, then add three branches that reach the wing edge without crossing each other.

Reason: Branching veins that stay inside the wing outline and never cross remain countable and clear.

Check: Trace each vein: one main vein plus three branches, no crossings, all ending at the wing edge.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student labels the abdomen as the thorax and attaches two legs to the abdomen. List two corrections needed.

Answer: Move the label to the correct segment and move the two legs so they attach to the thorax.

Reason: Labels must point to the correct body part, and all six legs must start on the thorax.

Check: Check that the thorax label sits on the middle segment and that all six leg start points lie on the thorax.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Three body segments are present and ordered head, thorax, abdomen.
- [ ] Thorax is the widest segment and carries all six legs.
- [ ] Exactly six legs are drawn, three per side, with visible joints.
- [ ] Two wings are present with countable branching veins that do not cross.
- [ ] Labels correctly identify head, thorax, abdomen, wings, and legs.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles are accepted if placement and counts are correct.

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