Draw a Nativity Manger Scene: Crib, Figures and Animals

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

In a practice box, the baseline is 12 cm from the top and the midline is 8 cm from the top. Calculate the x-height, then state the example crib width and height using two x-heights wide and one and a half x-heights high.

Answer: X-height is 12 minus 8 equals 4 cm. Crib width is 2 times 4 equals 8 cm. Crib height is 1.5 times 4 equals 6 cm.

Reason: Subtract the midline position from the baseline position to get the x-height. Multiply by the given proportion factors for crib width and height.

Check: Recheck the subtraction and multiplication, and confirm the crib fits inside the practice box with room for figures and animals.

Task 2

A figure's feet are on the baseline at 12 cm from the top and its head is at 8 cm from the top. A second figure is drawn with head at 7 cm from the top and feet at 12 cm from the top. Which figure matches the x-height guide of 4 cm, and by how much does the other differ?

Answer: The first figure matches: 12 minus 8 equals 4 cm. The second figure is 12 minus 7 equals 5 cm, so it is 1 cm taller than the guide.

Reason: Compare each head-to-feet distance with the x-height. The difference is the absolute difference between the measured height and 4 cm.

Check: Measure both head and feet positions again and confirm the subtraction; accept the first figure as consistent with the guide.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

An animal body is drawn 5 cm long and its head is 2.5 cm high. The x-height is 4 cm. State whether the body length and head height are within the example guide of one x-height and half an x-height, and give the differences.

Answer: Body length is 5 cm, which is 1 cm longer than the 4 cm guide. Head height is 2.5 cm, which is 0.5 cm less than the 2 cm guide. The body is too long by 1 cm and the head is too short by 0.5 cm.

Reason: Subtract the guide values from the drawn values: 5 minus 4 equals 1, and 2.5 minus 2 equals 0.5. Report absolute differences.

Check: Re-measure the animal body and head, recalculate the differences, and decide whether to adjust the drawing or accept it as a valid alternative if the silhouette remains clear.

Task 4

A scene has a crib 8 cm wide and 6 cm high, a figure 4 cm tall, and two animals each 4 cm long. The practice box is 20 cm wide and 15 cm high. Estimate whether the crib, figure and two animals can fit without overlapping confusingly if placed with the crib centred, one animal behind and one to the side. Give a simple width check.

Answer: A simple width check is crib width 8 cm plus one side animal length 4 cm plus spacing of about 2 cm, totalling 14 cm, which is less than 20 cm. The scene can fit with the crib centred, one animal behind and one to the side, provided the figure is placed beside the crib and overlaps are checked.

Reason: Add the main horizontal elements and a small spacing allowance, then compare with the box width. This is an estimate, not a precise layout guarantee.

Check: Measure the actual drawn widths, add them with spacing, and confirm the total is less than the box width; then check that the crib remains visible and both animals are distinguishable.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Crib is present, readable and roughly two x-heights wide and one and a half x-heights high.
- [ ] At least one human figure is present with feet near the baseline and head near the midline.
- [ ] Two animals are present with distinct silhouettes and body lengths near one x-height.
- [ ] Composition places one animal behind the crib and one to the side, keeping the crib visible.
- [ ] Guide lines are lightened or erased and final outlines are clear.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in figure and animal style are accepted when proportions and overlaps are consistent.

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