Salt Marsh Drawing: Creek Channels, Grass Clumps, and Tide Line

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



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Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: Draw a small salt marsh scene on a 10 cm by 15 cm area. Include one main creek channel that tapers from about 2 cm wide at the bottom edge to about 0.5 cm near the horizon, one branch, three foreground grass clumps, four distant grass clumps, and a dashed tide line crossing the main channel. These measurements are hypothetical; measure your own paper first.

Answer: The finished drawing shows a main channel entering from the bottom edge and curving toward the horizon, narrowing from about 2 cm to about 0.5 cm. One branch splits at a shallow angle and tapers faster. Three large grass clumps sit in the foreground with gaps between them; four smaller clumps sit near the horizon. A dashed tide line crosses the main channel and passes behind the foreground clumps. At least one foreground clump overlaps a creek edge.

Reason: The taper shows depth along the channel. The branch being narrower than the parent at the split reinforces the branching structure. Larger foreground clumps and smaller distant clumps use size change as a depth cue. Overlap between a foreground clump and a creek edge adds a second depth cue. The dashed tide line crossing the channel keeps the convention consistent and shows the tide line is continuous.

Check: Trace the main channel and confirm it narrows from bottom to horizon. Confirm the branch is narrower than the main channel at the split. Count three foreground clumps and four distant clumps, and confirm the foreground clumps are larger. Trace the tide line and confirm it crosses the main channel without closing it. Confirm at least one foreground clump overlaps a creek edge.