Draw a Stormy Sky: Layered Clouds and Rain Streaks

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A sky panel is 16 cm wide and 10 cm high. You place three horizontal guides at 3 cm and 6 cm from the bottom. Describe where the lower, middle, and top cloud bands go and which tonal key value each uses.

Answer: Lower band below 3 cm, shaded D; middle band between 3 cm and 6 cm, shaded M; top band above 6 cm, shaded L.

Reason: The convention orders bands from darkest and lowest to lightest and highest. The guides divide the panel into three horizontal zones.

Check: Measure the guide heights on your panel and confirm each band sits in its zone and matches the correct key label.

Task 2

You choose a rain direction 15 degrees from vertical. You draw ten streaks: six at 15 degrees, two at 30 degrees, and two vertical. How many streaks follow the chosen direction, and what should you do with the others?

Answer: Six streaks follow the chosen direction. Erase or redraw the four that do not.

Reason: The convention requires every streak to be parallel to the single chosen direction. Only the six at 15 degrees match.

Check: Compare each streak to the direction arrow; count matches and correct mismatches.

Task 3

Under the lower band you place streaks 1 cm apart across 12 cm. Under the middle band you place streaks 2 cm apart across 12 cm. How many streaks are in each row, and which row is denser?

Answer: Lower row: 12 streaks if starting at one edge and spacing 1 cm across 12 cm (hypothetical count). Middle row: 6 streaks at 2 cm spacing. The lower row is denser.

Reason: Density increases as spacing decreases. The lower band should have denser rain according to the convention.

Check: Count the gaps and streaks in each row and confirm the lower row has smaller gaps.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Your lower band and middle band look equally dark. You want the lower band to be clearly darker. Name one adjustment and state how you would check it.

Answer: Darken the lower band by one step on your tonal key, or lighten the middle band. Check by comparing both bands side by side to the L, M, D key.

Reason: The convention requires a clear value order. Adjusting one band restores the order without changing the layout.

Check: Place the tonal key next to each band and confirm lower matches D and middle matches M, with a visible difference.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Three distinct cloud bands are present and ordered dark to light from bottom to top.
- [ ] Cloud shapes use rounded wedges or lumpy ovals, not perfect circles.
- [ ] Rain streaks share one consistent direction marked at the panel edge.
- [ ] Streak density is greater under the lower band and sparser near the top.
- [ ] Values match the student's own L, M, D tonal key.
- [ ] No lightning bolts or weather symbols are included.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: any single rain direction, any cloud bump pattern, and any panel size are acceptable if the ordering and direction rules are met.

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