Feather Texture Drawing: Barb Rows, Downy Zones, and Shaft Detail

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a 6 cm feather outline with a shaft guide and two barb-row zones: sparse at 4 mm and medium at 2 mm. Describe your spacing and row direction.

Answer: The outline is 6 cm long. The shaft guide runs base to tip. Sparse rows are about 4 mm apart in the upper half; medium rows are about 2 mm apart in the lower half. Rows lean slightly toward the tip and stop inside the outline.

Reason: Two zones show density change. Spacing values are hypothetical examples. Rows start at the shaft and end inside the outline, which keeps texture readable.

Check: Measure three gaps in each zone with a ruler. Confirm each row touches the shaft guide and stops before the outline.

Task 2

Draw a downy base zone 3 cm wide with five wavy lines and a fading shaft. Describe how the shaft changes.

Answer: Five wavy lines fan outward from the base. The shaft line becomes thinner in the downy zone and ends in a small rounded tip. Two wavy lines overlap to suggest fluff.

Reason: Wavy, shorter lines read as downy texture. A thinner shaft shows fading without losing the guide line.

Check: Check that at least two downy lines overlap and that the shaft is visibly thinner in the base zone than in the middle.

Task 3

Create a three-part practice strip 9 cm long. Draw sparse rows at 6 mm, medium at 3 mm, and dense at 1.5 mm. Describe the visual difference.

Answer: The sparse section shows individual rows with visible paper between them; the medium section shows clear texture; the dense section looks smooth and dark. All rows start at a common guide line.

Reason: Changing spacing changes texture density. Each spacing is half the previous one, so the progression is easy to check. The common guide line keeps rows aligned for comparison.

Check: Measure two gaps per section. Confirm dense gaps are smallest and sparse gaps are largest, and that every row starts at the guide line.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a feather tip 4 cm long with a tapered shaft and dense barb rows. Describe how you prevent rows from crossing the outline.

Answer: The tip outline narrows to a point. The shaft tapers to a fine point. Dense rows are about 1.5 mm apart and shorten near the tip. Each row stops just inside the outline.

Reason: Shorter rows near the tip match the narrowing shape. Stopping inside the outline keeps the edge clean.

Check: Trace the outline with a fingertip and confirm no row extends beyond it. Check that the shaft ends in a point, not a blunt bar.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Shaft is a narrow line with a visible highlight gap or a clearly justified alternative.
- [ ] Barb rows start at the shaft and stop inside the outline.
- [ ] Three density zones are visible: sparse, medium, and dense.
- [ ] Downy zone uses wavy, shorter, less parallel lines than the upper rows.
- [ ] Texture reads as feather surface, not as a full bird or wing.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the three structures remain clear.

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