Draw a Bee Hummingbird: Tiny Proportions and Iridescent Feather Steps

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A bee hummingbird drawing has a total length of 80 millimeters. The head plus body measures 48 millimeters, the bill measures 8 millimeters, and the tail measures 24 millimeters. Check the five-part guide and state whether the proportions are correct.

Answer: One part is 80 divided by five, or 16 millimeters. Head plus body is 48 millimeters, which is three parts. Bill plus tail is 32 millimeters, which is two parts. The proportions are correct.

Reason: Divide total length by five to find one part, then compare head-plus-body and bill-plus-tail to three and two parts.

Check: Re-measure each segment with a ruler and confirm the sums equal the total length.

Task 2

A student draws a folded wing that extends 6 millimeters beyond the tail tip on a 90-millimeter bird. The wing is also 30 millimeters wide. Describe one correction that follows the lesson convention.

Answer: Shorten the wing so it ends before the tail tip, and narrow it to a leaf shape. A hypothetical target is a wing width of about 10 millimeters, but measure your own drawing and adjust.

Reason: The convention requires a narrow folded wing that does not pass the tail tip; width should be much smaller than length.

Check: Compare wing end to tail tip and measure wing width against the body width.

Task 3

A drawing shows the throat shaded with one solid bright layer and the back with random strokes. Name two corrections using the three-zone convention.

Answer: First, rebuild the throat with dark, mid, and bright zones in order, keeping the bright band narrow. Second, make back strokes follow the body contour from head to tail.

Reason: Iridescence is shown by ordered tone zones, and feather strokes must follow the agreed direction.

Check: Step back and confirm three distinct zones and consistent stroke direction on both throat and back.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A bee hummingbird is drawn with a total length of 120 millimeters. The head plus body is 84 millimeters and the tail is 24 millimeters. The bill is 12 millimeters. Identify the proportion error and give a corrected set of measurements that keeps the total at 120 millimeters.

Answer: One part is 24 millimeters. Head plus body is 84 millimeters, or 3.5 parts, which is too long. A corrected set is head plus body 72 millimeters (three parts), bill 12 millimeters, and tail 36 millimeters (two parts total for bill plus tail). The total remains 120 millimeters.

Reason: The guide requires three parts for head plus body and two parts for bill plus tail; adjust segments while preserving the total.

Check: Add the corrected segments to confirm 120 millimeters and divide by five to confirm each part is 24 millimeters.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Proportion guide: head plus body occupies about three of five parts; bill plus tail about two.
- [ ] Wing shape: folded wing is narrow and ends before the tail tip.
- [ ] Tail shape: short fan, wider than long, with four to six radiating feather lines.
- [ ] Feather direction: primary wing feathers point toward the tail; body contour feathers flow head to tail.
- [ ] Iridescent shading: dark, mid, and bright zones are distinct and ordered.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: different color family or reversed highlight side are accepted if the three-zone order and feather direction remain consistent.

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