Crow Drawing Step by Step: Wing and Beak Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Using a proportional unit of 3 cm, draw a crow body oval 6 cm long and 3 cm tall. Add a head circle 1.5 cm tall (and, as a chosen example, 1.5 cm wide) above and forward. Draw a beak 0.5 cm long. Check the beak length against the head width.

Answer: A body oval 6 cm by 3 cm, a head circle 1.5 cm tall and 1.5 cm wide, and a beak 0.5 cm long. The beak is about one-third of the head width (1.5 cm).

Reason: The body oval is two units long and one unit tall. The head is half the body oval height, so 1.5 cm tall. The beak is one-third of the head width, so 0.5 cm is consistent with a 1.5 cm head width.

Check: Measure the head width and divide by three. Compare with the beak length. Adjust if the beak is longer than one-third.

Task 2

Draw a wing as a long triangle from the shoulder to 1 cm before the tail tip. The body oval is 5 cm long. The tail wedge is 2.5 cm long and extends straight back from the body oval's rear, so its tip is 2.5 cm behind the body oval's rear. The shoulder is marked 1 cm forward of the body oval's rear. Where should the wing tip end relative to the body oval's rear, and how long is the wing from shoulder to tip?

Answer: The wing tip should end 1.5 cm behind the body oval's rear. The wing is 2.5 cm long from shoulder to tip.

Reason: The tail wedge extends 2.5 cm from the body oval's rear. The wing tip stops 1 cm before the tail tip, so it is 2.5 - 1 = 1.5 cm behind the body oval's rear. The shoulder is 1 cm forward of the body oval's rear, so the wing spans 1 + 1.5 = 2.5 cm from shoulder to tip.

Check: Measure from the body oval's rear to the wing tip (should be 1.5 cm) and from the wing tip to the tail tip (should be 1 cm). Measure the wing from shoulder to tip (should be 2.5 cm).

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Construct a beak for a crow with a head circle 2 cm wide. The upper mandible is a wedge tapering to a point. The lower mandible is shorter. What is a reasonable beak length, and how do you check it?

Answer: A reasonable beak length is about 0.67 cm (about two-thirds of a centimeter), roughly one-third of the head width. Check by measuring the head width and dividing by three.

Reason: The beak should be heavy but not as long as the head is wide. One-third of 2 cm is about 0.67 cm, which keeps the beak proportionate.

Check: Measure the beak from base to tip. It should be close to one-third of the head width, within a small margin.

Task 4

Draw a complete side-view crow facing left with a body oval 4 cm long and 2 cm tall, head 1 cm tall (and, as a chosen example, 1.5 cm wide), beak 0.5 cm long, tail 2 cm long, and wing tip 0.5 cm before the tail tip. List three proportional checks you can perform.

Answer: Three checks: body oval length is twice body oval height (4 cm vs 2 cm); head height is half body oval height (1 cm vs 2 cm); beak length is about one-third of head width (one-third of 1.5 cm is 0.5 cm, so the beak is consistent). Also check wing tip is 0.5 cm before tail tip.

Reason: These relationships come from the construction guide. They allow self-checking without a reference image.

Check: Use a ruler to measure each part and compare the ratios. Adjust any part that deviates noticeably.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body oval is about twice as long as tall and tilted slightly upward.
- [ ] Head circle is about half the body oval height and placed forward and above.
- [ ] Beak is heavy, about one-third of head width, with a slight downward curve.
- [ ] Wing is a long triangle from shoulder to near tail tip, with feather lines.
- [ ] Wing tip stays within the tail wedge.
- [ ] Tail is a wedge about one proportional unit long.
- [ ] Eye and legs are placed consistently with the side view.
- [ ] Construction lines are light or erased, leaving a clean silhouette.

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