Fire Animation Drawing: Flame Shapes and Flicker Frames

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw four equal frame boxes in a row. Number them 1 to 4. In frame 1, draw a flame with a 3 cm base and a left-leaning tip. In frame 2, keep the same base and center the tip. In frame 3, lean the tip right. In frame 4, center the tip again. Add one inner heat shape inside each outline.

Answer: A four-frame sequence with a stable 3 cm base and tips leaning left, center, right, center. Each frame has one inner shape that does not touch the outline.

Reason: The sequence uses a simple flicker convention: change the tip lean while keeping the base stable. The inner shape adds heat without changing the silhouette.

Check: Compare base widths with a ruler; they should differ by less than one pencil width. Check tip order left, center, right, center. Confirm the inner shape stays inside the outline in all four frames.

Task 2

Draw a six-frame sequence using the pattern tall, medium, tall, medium, short, medium. Keep the base width the same. Alternate tip leans left, center, right, center, left, center. Describe how you keep the body taper similar between frames.

Answer: Six frames with the same base width and a repeating height pattern. Tip leans alternate as specified. The body taper is kept similar by drawing the same side curves from the base to the body before changing the tip.

Reason: Changing height slightly suggests flicker while a stable base and similar taper keep the fire readable as one object.

Check: Check that adjacent frames differ mainly in tip lean or height, not in every part. Measure base widths and confirm they are within one pencil width. Verify the tip order matches the pattern.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw two flame shapes side by side in separate boxes. In the first, use a rounder body and a short tip. In the second, use a sharper body and a longer tip. Both must have a 3 cm base and an inner heat shape. Explain why both are valid under the convention.

Answer: Both flames have a stable base, a tapered body, a tip, and an inner shape. The rounder and sharper versions are valid alternatives because the convention does not require one universal flame shape.

Reason: The convention checks structure and flicker behavior, not a single silhouette. Valid alternatives can vary body roundness and tip length as long as the base and inner shape rules are followed.

Check: Confirm each flame has a base, body, tip, and inner shape. Check the base width is 3 cm in both. Confirm the inner shape does not touch the outline. Compare the two shapes and note the differences in roundness and tip length.

Task 4

Draw a four-frame sequence where frame 1 tip leans left, frame 2 center, frame 3 right, and frame 4 center. Then deliberately make one mistake: in frame 3, change the base width to 5 cm while the others are 3 cm. Describe how you would find and fix the mistake using the rubric.

Answer: The mistake is an unstable base in frame 3. Using the rubric, base stability scores 0 or 1 because the width changes by more than one pencil width. Fix by redrawing frame 3 with a 3 cm base aligned to the same ground line.

Reason: The rubric separates base stability from tip sequence, so the error is identifiable. Redrawing only the failing frame keeps the rest of the sequence intact.

Check: Measure all four base widths. If one differs by more than one pencil width, redraw that frame. Recheck tip order and inner shape after the fix.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Base stability: 2 if base width changes by less than one pencil width; 1 if more; 0 if the base leaves the ground line.
- [ ] Tip sequence: 2 if tips follow left, center, right, center; 1 if one frame is off; 0 if random.
- [ ] Inner shape: 2 if inside the outline in all frames; 1 if it touches once; 0 if it crosses the outline.
- [ ] Numbering and spacing: 2 if frames are numbered and evenly spaced; 1 if one issue; 0 if unclear.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: rounder or sharper flames score full marks if the convention is followed.

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