Drawing Japanese Cultural Motifs: Torii Gate and Folding Fan Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 15 cm tall page, draw a torii gate with pillar spacing equal to one-third of total height. Place nuki one-third down from the top. State the spacing and nuki height.

Answer: Spacing = 15/3 = 5 cm between pillar centers. Nuki height = 15/3 = 5 cm down from the top.

Reason: Use the given proportions directly: one-third of total height for both spacing and nuki placement.

Check: Measure between pillar centers and from top to nuki; both should be about 5 cm.

Task 2

Draw a folding fan with a 90-degree open angle and 8 equal pleats. Describe how you divide the sector and where you place ribs.

Answer: Divide 90 degrees by 8 pleats = 11.25 degrees per pleat. Draw alternating mountain and valley lines from pivot to arc. Place ribs along every other fold line, slightly thicker.

Reason: Equal division of the angle ensures even pleats; ribs follow selected fold lines for structure.

Check: Count 8 wedges and verify each is about 11.25 degrees; check that ribs are thicker than creases.

Task 3

A torii gate is 24 cm tall. Pillar spacing is one-third of height, and kasagi thickness is one-tenth of height. Calculate spacing and kasagi thickness.

Answer: Spacing = 24/3 = 8 cm. Kasagi thickness = 24/10 = 2.4 cm.

Reason: Apply the hypothetical proportional rules: one-third for spacing, one-tenth for kasagi thickness.

Check: Multiply your results back: 8 × 3 = 24; 2.4 × 10 = 24.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a closed folding fan variant next to an open fan with 12 pleats and a 120-degree angle. Describe how the closed variant differs in rib layout.

Answer: Open fan: 120/12 = 10 degrees per pleat, ribs along every other fold. Closed fan: narrow bundle with ribs aligned and pleats compressed; show rib ends at pivot and outer edge close together.

Reason: The closed fan compresses the same pleat structure into a narrow shape; rib alignment shows the folding mechanism.

Check: Count 12 pleats in the open fan; verify the closed fan shows aligned ribs and a narrow profile.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Torii pillars are symmetric about the center line.
- [ ] Pillar spacing is proportional to total height as planned.
- [ ] Kasagi has a gentle, symmetric upward curve.
- [ ] Nuki is placed at a consistent height and connects pillars.
- [ ] Fan pleats are evenly spaced and radiate from the pivot.
- [ ] Ribs are distinguishable from fold creases.
- [ ] Open and closed fan variants are both shown or described.
- [ ] Labels follow the x-height convention; letter style may vary.
- [ ] Measurements are labeled as hypothetical examples where used.
- [ ] Overall composition is clear and checkable by simple arithmetic.

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