Ocean Animal Drawing: Compare Fish Fins, Jellyfish Tentacles, and Shell Spirals

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a fish panel with a horizontal midline and a body taper. Place a dorsal fin above the midline and an anal fin below near the tail. Use short fin bases. Add a forked tail.

Answer: A tapered fish body with a short-based dorsal fin above the midline, a short-based anal fin below near the tail, and a forked tail.

Reason: Short fin bases keep the taper visible, and placing fins on opposite sides of the midline makes the comparison between dorsal and anal placement clear.

Check: Check that the midline is horizontal, no fin base crosses it, and the tail is forked.

Task 2

Draw a jellyfish panel with a domed bell on a horizontal baseline. Add six tentacles as single curved flow lines bending in the same direction, with spacing widening toward the tips.

Answer: A domed bell with a slightly wavy edge and six tentacles drawn as single curves bending one way, spaced wider at the tips.

Reason: One consistent flow direction reads as current, and widening spacing prevents the tentacles from looking like a comb.

Check: Check that all six curves bend the same way and no tentacles cross.

Task 3

Draw a shell panel with a center point and three coils, each arc attaching to the previous one. Add ridge marks across the coils at even spacing. Choose one spiral direction and keep it.

Answer: A spiral with three attached coils in one consistent direction and evenly spaced ridge marks across the coils.

Reason: Attached arcs make the coil read as one continuous spiral, and even ridge spacing shows the shell surface without hiding the spiral line.

Check: Check that each arc touches the previous coil and the spiral direction does not reverse.

Ocean Animal Drawing: Compare Fish Fins, Jellyfish Tentacles, and Shell Spirals

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Below your three panels, draw three comparison boxes. In each box redraw one structure: a fin shape, a tentacle flow line, and a spiral coil. Write one observed difference beside each.

Answer: Three smaller boxes each containing one redrawn structure and one written difference, such as shorter fin base, wider tentacle spacing, or larger outer coil.

Reason: Isolating one structure per box makes differences checkable without redrawing whole animals.

Check: Check that each box is smaller than its panel, contains one structure, and has one written difference.

Ocean Animal Drawing: Compare Fish Fins, Jellyfish Tentacles, and Shell Spirals

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Fish panel shows a visible body taper and fins with short bases placed above, below, and behind the head.
- [ ] Jellyfish panel shows a domed bell with a slightly wavy edge and tentacles drawn as flow lines bending in one consistent direction.
- [ ] Shell panel shows a spiral with successive arcs attached to the previous coil and ridge marks spaced evenly.
- [ ] Three comparison boxes are present, each redrawing one structure with one observed difference noted.
- [ ] Plate margins are at least two x-heights and panels do not overlap.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: spiral direction may be clockwise or counterclockwise, tentacle count may vary, and fin shapes may differ as long as placement and taper remain clear.

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