Draw Realistic Flames: Core, Tongue, and Ember Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a flame 8 cm tall with a 3 cm wide base. Divide it into three equal zones. Shade the tip medium-dark, the tongue light-medium, and leave the core nearly white. Place 7 embers outside the silhouette, with 5 above the middle line.

Answer: A connected flame silhouette with three equal zones, tip darkest, tongue middle, core lightest, and 7 embers outside the body, 5 above the middle.

Reason: Equal zones make the gradient easy to check. The ember count and placement follow the lesson's spacing guidance.

Check: Squint to confirm tip darker than tongue and tongue darker than core. Count embers: 7 total, 5 above the middle. Confirm no ember sits inside the core.

Task 2

Draw a flame that leans slightly to the right. Keep the core near the base, curve the tongue consistently right, and place 6 embers outside the silhouette, mostly on the right side.

Answer: A leaning flame with a light core at the base, a right-curving tongue, and 6 embers outside the body, mostly on the right.

Reason: A consistent lean suggests motion. Embers on the same side as the lean create a coherent direction.

Check: Trace the center line: it should curve right without reversing. Confirm the core is still the lightest zone. Count 6 embers and check they are outside the silhouette.

Task 3

Draw a flame with a softly split tip. Keep both tip branches short and shallow. Shade the tip darkest, the tongue middle, and the core lightest. Place 8 embers outside the silhouette, with at least 2 isolated specks.

Answer: A flame with a shallow split tip, correct gradient order, and 8 embers outside the body including at least 2 isolated specks.

Reason: A shallow split adds realism without turning the flame into a leaf shape. Isolated embers create rhythm.

Check: Check that the split is less than one-third of the flame height. Squint for gradient order. Count 8 embers and identify at least 2 that stand alone.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a flame 10 cm tall with a 4 cm wide base. Use a hypothetical example of 9 embers: 3 close together near the upper right, 2 close together near the upper left, and 4 isolated specks spread between them. Keep the core nearly white.

Answer: A flame with a light core, correct gradient, and 9 embers arranged in two small clusters and 4 isolated specks outside the silhouette.

Reason: Clusters plus isolated specks create uneven but readable spacing. The hypothetical count of 9 is within the suggested range.

Check: Count 9 embers total: 3 in one cluster, 2 in another, 4 isolated. Confirm all are outside the silhouette and the core remains the lightest zone.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Silhouette is one connected form with a clear base, tongue, and tip.
- [ ] Core is the lightest zone; tip is the darkest zone of the flame body.
- [ ] Tongue shading follows the curve of the edges rather than straight bands.
- [ ] Embers are outside the main silhouette, unevenly spaced, and mostly above the middle.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: a leaning flame, a split tip, or a wider base, provided the core-to-tip value order remains clear.

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