Dried Flower Drawing: Brittle Stems, Shriveled Petals, and Seed Heads

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a single dried stem with a base width of 5 mm and a tip width of 2 mm (hypothetical example values). Include two bend points and label them.

Answer: A centerline with two marked bend points; left and right edges taper from 5 mm to 2 mm; each bend is a short straight segment joined by a small curve.

Reason: The taper ratio is 5:2, so the tip is 40 percent of the base width. Two bends give the brittle look without overcomplicating the stem.

Check: Measure the base and tip widths with a ruler. Confirm both edges converge and that each bend point has a short straight run on either side.

Task 2

Draw a shriveled flower head with four petals. Each petal must have a fold line and at least one notch. Describe where the petals curl.

Answer: Four closed petal contours around a center point; each has a fold line; two petals curl inward toward the stem, one curls left, one curls down; each outer edge has a notch.

Reason: Four petals allow clear overlaps without clutter. Inward curl reads as dry and collapsed, while the notches break the smooth fresh-flower look.

Check: Trace each petal contour to confirm it is closed. Check that every petal has a fold line and at least one notch. Confirm no contour crosses another without an overlap break.

Task 3

Draw a cone-shaped seed head 3 cm tall and 2 cm wide at the base (hypothetical example values). Use ring packing with three rings. How many seeds are in each ring if the top ring has 3, the middle has 5, and the bottom has 7?

Answer: A cone silhouette 3 cm tall and 2 cm wide at the base; three rings; top ring 3 seeds, middle ring 5 seeds, bottom ring 7 seeds; total 15 seeds.

Reason: The ring counts increase by 2 from top to bottom, matching the widening cone. The total is 3 + 5 + 7 = 15.

Check: Count the seeds in each ring and add them. Confirm the ring lines shrink toward the tip and that the packing pattern stays ring-based throughout.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a small arrangement of three dried flowers: one tall with a dome head, one medium with a cone head, and one short with a shriveled petal head. Place the heads at three different heights. Use stem base widths of 4 mm, 3 mm, and 2 mm (hypothetical example values).

Answer: Three stems with different heights and head types; heads offset vertically and horizontally; stems cross at different angles; base widths taper to tips; dome uses radial packing, cone uses ring packing, petal head has fold lines and notches.

Reason: Different head types and heights create a readable arrangement. The three base widths give variety while each stem still tapers.

Check: Check that no two heads share the same height. Measure each base width and confirm a narrower tip. Verify each head uses its stated packing or petal convention consistently.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stem shows clear taper from base to tip with two edges that converge.
- [ ] Bends are drawn as short straight segments joined by small curves, not long smooth arcs.
- [ ] Each petal is a closed contour with a fold line and at least one notch or wave.
- [ ] Seed head uses one consistent packing pattern (radial, ring, or spiral) across the whole head.
- [ ] Arrangement (if required) has heads at different heights and stems crossing at different angles.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: any petal count from three to seven, any consistent seed-head pattern, and any proportional stem widths are accepted if the dry, brittle character reads clearly.

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