Palmchat Drawing: Perched Pose, Beak and Tail Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Using a hypothetical x-height of 5 mm, draw a palmchat body oval and head circle. Mark the eye level one-third down from the top of the head. Check that the head circle overlaps the body oval by about one x-height unit.

Answer: A drawing with a tilted body oval, an overlapping head circle, and an eye level marked about one-third down. The overlap is approximately 5 mm.

Reason: The overlap ensures a short, thick neck. The eye level placement follows the head construction convention.

Check: Measure the overlap with a ruler and compare to your 5 mm unit. Check the eye level position visually.

Task 2

Draw a short stout beak on the head from the previous exercise. Use a center line from the eye to the beak tip. Make the beak length about one-third of the head width. Label your chosen values as hypothetical.

Answer: A compact beak with upper and lower mandibles, a rounded tip, and a length close to one-third of the head width.

Reason: The center line keeps symmetry, and the length ratio prevents an overly long beak.

Check: Measure head width and beak length; divide beak length by head width and compare to 0.33.

Task 3

Add a tapered tail to the palmchat. Use a hypothetical tail length of two x-height units (x-height 4 mm). Draw two guide lines for width and taper the tail toward the tip. Check that the tail base connects smoothly to the body.

Answer: A tapered tail about 8 mm long, attached at the tail base, with a smooth connection to the body.

Reason: The guide lines control width, and the taper creates a natural feather shape.

Check: Measure tail length and compare to 8 mm. Check that the tail width decreases toward the tip.

Palmchat Drawing: Perched Pose, Beak and Tail Construction

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Complete the perched pose by drawing feet gripping a branch. Use two toes forward and one toe back as a simple convention. Check that the body sits over the feet and the tail balances behind. List one valid alternative toe arrangement.

Answer: A perched palmchat with feet gripping the branch, body over the feet, and tail balanced. A valid alternative is three toes forward and one back if the grip looks plausible.

Reason: The body position affects balance, and toe arrangements vary in drawings.

Check: Draw a vertical line from the body center to the branch; it should pass near the feet. Check that the tail does not pull the bird backward.

Palmchat Drawing: Perched Pose, Beak and Tail Construction

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body outline is smooth and tilted forward in a perched pose.
- [ ] Head overlaps the body correctly and eye level is marked.
- [ ] Beak is short, stout, and constructed as two mandibles.
- [ ] Tail is tapered, attached at the tail base, and balanced.
- [ ] Feet grip the branch plausibly.
- [ ] X-height unit is used consistently for proportion checks.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in tail angle and toe arrangement are accepted if coherent.

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