Tree Close-Up Drawing: Bark, Leaves, and Branch Joints

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Inside a 10 cm by 8 cm frame, draw one branch joint and twelve bark ridges. Space ridges 4 mm apart as a hypothetical example. State how many ridges touch the trunk edge.

Answer: All twelve ridges should touch the trunk edge; the count is 12.

Reason: Each bark ridge must contact the trunk surface to read as texture. Spacing 4 mm apart across the frame gives a checkable layout.

Check: Count ridges that touch the trunk edge. If fewer than twelve touch, redraw the missing contacts.

Task 2

Draw two leaf clusters with six leaves each. Each leaf needs one central vein and two side veins. How many vein strokes total?

Answer: Each leaf has 3 vein strokes, so 12 leaves times 3 equals 36 vein strokes.

Reason: One central vein plus two side veins equals three strokes per leaf. Two clusters of six leaves make twelve leaves.

Check: Count leaves (12) and multiply by 3. Confirm each leaf shows one central and two side veins.

Task 3

Set a baseline and a midline 5 mm above it. Draw eight bark ridges with heights between baseline and midline, then two ridges taller than the midline. What fraction of ridges stay within the x-height band?

Answer: Eight out of ten ridges stay within the band, which is 8/10 or 4/5.

Reason: The x-height band is baseline to midline. Eight ridges are inside; two exceed the midline. Total ridges are ten.

Check: Count total ridges (10) and inside ridges (8). Divide 8 by 10 to confirm 4/5.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

In a 12 cm by 9 cm frame, place a branch joint 3 cm from the left edge and 4 cm from the top edge. Draw a side branch leaving at 40 degrees. Describe where the branch tip lands if it extends 5 cm.

Answer: The branch tip lands about 3.8 cm right and 3.2 cm down from the joint, using hypothetical trigonometry; a drawn approximation is acceptable.

Reason: A 5 cm branch at 40 degrees has horizontal component 5 times cosine 40, about 3.8 cm, and vertical component 5 times sine 40, about 3.2 cm. These values are hypothetical examples.

Check: Measure the drawn branch length (about 5 cm) and angle (about 40 degrees). Compare tip position to the calculated components within a reasonable sketch tolerance.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Zoom-frame contains only close-up detail; no full-tree silhouette or forest scene.
- [ ] Branch joint is clear and marked with a shallow V.
- [ ] Bark ridges follow trunk curvature and vary in length and spacing.
- [ ] Bark ridge heights use the baseline-to-midline convention as a proportional guide.
- [ ] Three leaf clusters overlap and each leaf connects to a stem or branch.
- [ ] Leaf veins are lighter than outlines.
- [ ] Valid alternative leaf shapes and stroke styles are accepted if connections and overlaps are clear.

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