Upside-Down Portrait Drawing: A Perceptual Shift Exercise

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A hypothetical inverted reference is 12 cm wide and 16 cm tall. The distance from the top of the head to the eye line is 6 cm, and from the eye line to the chin is 5 cm. Your border is 6 cm wide. Scale the two distances and state where to place the eye-line mark.

Answer: Border ratio is 6/12 = 1/2. Scaled top-to-eye distance is 6 × 1/2 = 3 cm. Scaled eye-to-chin distance is 5 × 1/2 = 2.5 cm. Place the eye-line mark 3 cm from the top edge of your border, measured along the vertical center line. Check: 3 + 2.5 = 5.5 cm, which is less than the 8 cm border height, so the chin mark sits 5.5 cm from the top edge.