Drawing Overlapping Animal Scale Rows with Size Gradient and Texture

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

In a small band 8 cm wide, draw a row of scales about 6 mm wide and 12 mm high, with gaps under 1 mm. Darken the overlap edges.

Answer: A row with roughly 13 scale positions across the 8 cm strip, allowing partial scales at an edge, with slight overlap, curved dark edges, and lighter scale bodies.

Reason: Eight centimetres is 80 mm; 80 divided by 6 is about 13.3 scale widths. Partial edge positions are expected, while close spacing and dark overlap edges establish the texture.

Check: Convert 8 cm to 80 mm and confirm about 13 scale widths fit. Measure three gaps and verify each is under 1 mm; check that the row below is overlapped.

Task 2

Draw a medium row 12 cm wide with a size gradient from 8 mm to 12 mm. Measure every third scale.

Answer: A row where every third scale is a little wider than the previous checked one, with checked widths increasing smoothly between the first scale near 8 mm and the last scale near 12 mm.

Reason: A smooth gradient increases gradually; checking every third scale makes the progression easy to verify, with each checked scale a little wider than the previous checked one.

Check: Use a ruler to measure every third scale. The checked widths should increase smoothly, with each checked scale a little wider than the previous checked one. Confirm the first scale is near 8 mm and the last scale is near 12 mm, and that the intermediate checked scales fall smoothly between those endpoints.

Task 3

In a shading strip 2 cm wide and 10 cm long, draw three overlapping scutes and shade only the overlap edges.

Answer: Three scutes with dark curved overlap edges and lighter exposed bodies.

Reason: Darkening only the overlap edge makes the layering read as texture without flattening the scute body.

Check: Compare the overlap edge to the body: the edge should be visibly darker. Confirm no full-body shading.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a large band row 15 cm wide with scutes from 12 mm to 18 mm wide, strong overlap, and a smooth gradient.

Answer: A row of large scutes increasing smoothly from 12 mm to 18 mm, each strongly overlapping the next, with dark overlap edges.

Reason: Large scutes need fewer per row and stronger overlap; a smooth gradient from 12 mm to 18 mm is measurable.

Check: Measure every third scute; widths should rise smoothly toward 18 mm. Check that each scute clearly covers the one to its right.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Three bands are present and labeled small, medium, and large.
- [ ] Each band has one traced example row and one blank practice row.
- [ ] Overlap convention is followed: each scale's lower edge overlaps the row below.
- [ ] Size gradient is smooth and measurable across medium and large rows.
- [ ] Overlap edges are darkened while scale bodies remain lighter.
- [ ] Valid alternative scale shapes are accepted if overlap logic and size progression are clear.

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