Negative Space Flower Drawing: Positive Petals, Negative Gaps

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A flower outline has five petals with no overlaps. The center is a small circle. Describe which areas are positive space and which are negative space, and state how many gaps you will fill.

Answer: Positive space: five petals and the center circle. Negative space: the background and the five gaps between petals. You will fill five gaps plus the background.

Reason: With five petals and no overlaps, each adjacent pair of petals creates one gap, giving five gaps. The center and petals are positive space and stay unshaded.

Check: Count the petals and gaps. The number of gaps should equal the number of petals when there are no overlaps. Confirm that petals and center are unshaded.

Task 2

A six-petal flower has one overlap where two petals cross. The overlap creates one extra gap shape. How many gap shapes should you fill in total? Explain your count.

Answer: Seven gap shapes. Six gaps come from the six petals around the center, and the overlap creates one additional separate gap shape.

Reason: Without overlaps, six petals give six gaps. The overlap splits or adds a gap shape, so count each separate bounded negative area. The total is seven.

Check: Mark each gap shape with a dot before filling. Count the dots. After filling, count the filled gap shapes again; the two counts should match at seven.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You draw a flower with seven petals and no overlaps on a 15 cm by 15 cm square. You decide on a 2 mm border around the flower outline. State the number of gaps to fill and describe how you would check the border width.

Answer: Fill seven gaps plus the background. Measure the border width with a ruler at several points around the flower; each measurement should be 2 mm in this hypothetical example. Record your actual measurements if they differ.

Reason: Seven petals with no overlaps give seven gaps. The border is optional and must be even. Measuring at several points checks consistency.

Check: Count gaps before and after filling; both should be seven. Measure the border at four or more points and compare the values.

Task 4

A flower outline has eight petals with two separate overlaps. Each overlap creates one additional gap shape. You fill the background and all gaps. State the total number of gap shapes filled and give one check to confirm no petal was shaded.

Answer: Ten gap shapes: eight from the petals plus two from the overlaps. To check, inspect each petal for pencil marks; all petals should be unshaded.

Reason: Eight petals without overlaps give eight gaps. Two overlaps add two separate gap shapes, for a total of ten. Petals must remain positive space.

Check: Count gap shapes before filling and after filling; both should be ten. Then scan each petal for shading and erase any marks that cross into petals.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Petals and center remain unshaded positive space.
- [ ] Background is filled up to the outline or chosen border.
- [ ] Each gap between petals is filled as a separate shape.
- [ ] Gap shapes reflect overlaps: widest and narrowest points are visible.
- [ ] Filling direction is consistent or intentionally follows gap curves.
- [ ] Gap count before and after filling matches.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: border or no border, different filling directions, and varied petal styles, provided positive and negative spaces are clearly distinguished.

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