Negative-Space Tree Drawing: Branches, Gaps, and Canopy

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 tree outline is 10 cm tall from baseline to canopy top. The first major fork is at 4 cm from baseline. Shade the background and three branch gaps, leaving the tree unshaded. Describe the steps and the check.

Answer: Mark baseline at 0 cm and midline at 4 cm. Sketch a loose canopy contour at 10 cm. Identify three gaps: one left of the trunk at 3 cm height, one right at 5 cm, and one near the canopy top at 8 cm. Shade the background above and beside the canopy, stopping at the contour. Shade each gap fully, leaving branches and leaf masses untouched. Check: measure baseline to midline (4 cm) and canopy top (10 cm); ratio is 10:4 or 2.5:1. Confirm three gaps are visible and the tree reads from two paces.