Skeleton Negative Space Drawing: See and Draw the Gaps

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A plate shows an arm gap 2.0 cm wide and a leg gap 3.0 cm wide in a hypothetical scale. Draw both gaps and state the ratio of leg gap to arm gap.

Answer: Draw two closed gap shapes, the leg gap one and a half times wider than the arm gap. The ratio is 3.0 divided by 2.0 = 1.5.

Reason: The task asks for two gap shapes and a simple ratio. Dividing the leg width by the arm width gives 1.5, which can be checked by measuring the drawn shapes.

Check: Measure both drawn gaps with a ruler; divide the leg measurement by the arm measurement and confirm it is close to 1.5.

Task 2

A skull outline contains an inner gap 4.0 cm wide and 5.0 cm tall in a hypothetical scale. Draw the inner gap and calculate its approximate area as width times height.

Answer: Draw a closed shape inside the skull outline. The approximate area is 4.0 cm times 5.0 cm = 20.0 square cm.

Reason: Treating the gap as a rectangle gives a simple checkable estimate. The drawn shape may be curved, but the width and height measurements anchor the check.

Check: Measure the widest width and tallest height of your drawn gap; multiply them and compare with 20.0 square cm.

Task 3

A plate shows 5 gaps between ribs with widths 0.6, 0.8, 0.7, 0.9, and 0.5 cm in a hypothetical scale. Draw the five gaps and find their total width.

Answer: Draw five separate gap shapes with the given relative widths. The total is 0.6 + 0.8 + 0.7 + 0.9 + 0.5 = 3.5 cm.

Reason: Adding the five widths gives a total that can be compared with the sum of your drawn gaps. The order of widths should be visible in the drawing.

Check: Measure each drawn gap, add the five numbers, and confirm the sum is close to 3.5 cm.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A plate shows a gap between the arm and torso that is 2.5 cm wide at the top and 1.5 cm wide at the bottom in a hypothetical scale. Draw the gap and state the difference between top and bottom widths.

Answer: Draw a tapering gap shape that is wider at the top. The difference is 2.5 minus 1.5 = 1.0 cm.

Reason: Subtracting the bottom width from the top width gives a simple check on the taper. The drawing should show the top clearly wider than the bottom.

Check: Measure the top and bottom widths of your drawn gap; subtract and confirm the difference is close to 1.0 cm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Gap count matches the plate (0-2).
- [ ] Relative widths within 0.5 cm of the plate (0-2).
- [ ] Contours are continuous and closed (0-2).
- [ ] Labels sit between baseline and midline (0-2).
- [ ] Skeleton guide remains faint and is not overworked (0-2).

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