Pumpkin Contour Drawing: Blind, Continuous, and Cross-Contour Exercises

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A pumpkin shows four lobes and a centered stem dimple. Draw a blind contour starting at the dimple, around the top, down one rib, around the bottom, and back to the dimple. Do not look at the paper until you finish. Then count lobes on your drawing.

Answer: A single unbroken line path from dimple around top, down one rib, around bottom, back to dimple; lobe count on the drawing may differ from four and is recorded as observed.

Reason: Blind contour prioritizes eye-hand tracking over accuracy; the path follows the specified edges and the dimple start/end.

Check: Confirm the pencil did not lift and you did not look down until the end; compare recorded lobe count with the pumpkin’s four lobes.

Task 2

Draw a continuous line of a pumpkin with five lobes: outer contour, then one rib edge to the stem dimple, then back out, without lifting the pencil. Add two cross-contour lines across the rib. State one overlap you used.

Answer: One unbroken line includes outer contour, one rib path to dimple and back, plus two curved cross-contour lines; one overlap is named, such as retracing the rib edge.

Reason: Continuous line permits looking but not lifting; overlaps are valid path evidence. Cross-contour lines must curve with the rib.

Check: Trace the line from start to end without finding a gap; verify two cross-contour lines curve with the rib and bend near the dimple.

Pumpkin Contour Drawing: Blind, Continuous, and Cross-Contour Exercises

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A pumpkin has an offset stem dimple and six ribs. Draw three cross-contour lines across three ribs, spacing them by eye. Measure your actual spacing with a ruler and record it. Do not shade.

Answer: Three curved lines crossing three ribs, each following the rib bulge and bending toward the offset dimple; recorded spacing is the measured value, for example 1.2 cm, labeled as measured.

Reason: Cross-contour describes surface curvature; offset dimple changes line direction. Measurement is of the actual drawing, not a standard.

Check: Check that no shading is present, three lines cross three ribs, and each line changes direction near the dimple; confirm recorded spacing matches the ruler measurement.

Task 4

Compare a blind contour and a continuous-line drawing of the same pumpkin. Record lobe counts for the pumpkin and both drawings, and locate the stem dimple in each. Name one improvement for the weaker drawing.

Answer: Recorded counts may differ; dimple locations are described as centered or offset in each drawing; one improvement names a specific edge or cross-contour adjustment, such as slowing eye movement or curving a line with a rib.

Reason: Comparison builds observation; blind contour drift is expected, while continuous line should preserve path continuity.

Check: Verify three lobe counts are recorded, dimple location is noted for each drawing, and the improvement refers to a visible line feature rather than shading.

Pumpkin Contour Drawing: Blind, Continuous, and Cross-Contour Exercises

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Blind contour: pencil not lifted and eyes not checked on paper until the path returns; one drift noted.
- [ ] Continuous line: outer contour and one interior rib path drawn without lifting; overlaps accepted.
- [ ] Cross-contour: at least three lines curve with ribs and respond to the stem dimple; no shading.
- [ ] Comparison: lobe count and dimple position recorded for pumpkin and drawings.
- [ ] Convention: any labels use measured x-height; letter style is not graded.

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