Poinsettia Contour Drawing in Black and White

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw one bract and one leaf side by side in contour line. The reference bract is 5 cm long and 3 cm wide; the leaf is 7 cm long and 2 cm wide. Use one black line per edge and no shading. Describe your line path and check both shapes with a ruler.

Answer: A valid drawing shows a broader bract (about 5 cm by 3 cm) and a narrower leaf (about 7 cm by 2 cm), each outlined with single black lines. The bract tip points outward; the leaf attaches to a short stem segment. No areas are filled.

Reason: The task tests shape distinction and measurement. Bracts are broader; leaves are narrower and longer in this example. Using one line per edge keeps the drawing in contour convention.

Check: Measure the drawn bract and leaf with a ruler and compare to 5 cm by 3 cm and 7 cm by 2 cm. Confirm every edge is a single black line and no shading is present.

Task 2

Make a blind contour of a single poinsettia leaf without looking at your paper. The reference leaf has a serrated margin and is 8 cm long. After finishing, look at your drawing and write one sentence about where your hand slowed down. Then draw the same leaf again while looking.

Answer: The blind contour will likely be distorted; that is acceptable. The written sentence should identify a specific place, such as the serrated margin or the leaf tip. The second drawing should show a clearer leaf shape with a serrated edge and a length close to 8 cm.

Reason: Blind contour trains hand-eye coordination. The comparison between blind and looking versions reveals where the hand relied on memory rather than observation.

Check: Confirm the blind contour was made without looking down, the sentence names a specific edge, and the second drawing has a measurable length near 8 cm with visible serrations.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a complete poinsettia in one continuous line without lifting your pen. Use three bracts and two leaves. The stem is 10 cm long. Start at the top bract tip and retrace the stem to reach each new part. Check that the pen never leaves the paper and that the stem length is close to 10 cm.

Answer: A valid continuous-line drawing shows three bracts around a center, two leaves below, and a stem of about 10 cm. The line retraces the stem to travel between parts. No shading or filled areas appear.

Reason: Continuous-line drawing forces planning and keeps edges connected. Retracing the stem is a valid way to move between parts without lifting the pen.

Check: Verify the pen stayed on the paper for the whole drawing, count three bracts and two leaves, and measure the stem against 10 cm. Confirm the line is black and no areas are filled.

Task 4

Compare two contour drawings of the same poinsettia: one with smooth bract edges and one with slightly wavy bract edges. Both use one black line per edge and no shading. The reference bract is 6 cm long. Decide which drawing better matches the reference and explain why, using at least one measurement.

Answer: Either style can be valid if the reference shows slight waves. The better match is the one whose bract length is closer to 6 cm and whose edge character matches the reference. The explanation should cite a measured length and a specific edge feature.

Reason: The rubric allows alternative line styles. The decision depends on observed edge character and measured accuracy, not on a single universal smoothness standard.

Check: Measure both drawn bracts against 6 cm, compare edge character to the reference, and confirm both drawings follow the one-line, no-shading convention.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Contour convention: all edges are single black lines on white paper; no shading, filling, or color.
- [ ] Bract-leaf distinction: bracts are broader and surround the center; leaves are narrower and attach lower on the stem.
- [ ] Edge accuracy: drawn bract lengths and leaf widths are within a reasonable margin of the measured reference; tips point outward.
- [ ] Line continuity: edges connect at tips, bases, and stem nodes without unexplained gaps; continuous-line version does not lift the pen.
- [ ] Alternative styles allowed: slight waves, small serrations, and minor gaps at stem junctions are acceptable if the contour remains readable.

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