Contour Line Practice: Drawing State Outlines as Continuous Boundaries

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A plate has five marked corners. Your continuous line hits four corners and closes with a 1 mm gap. No pencil lifts. Score continuity, corner accuracy, and closure.

Answer: Continuity: pass, zero lifts. Corner accuracy: 4 of 5. Closure: 1 mm gap (hypothetical example). Overall: strong attempt; practice the missed corner next.

Reason: Continuity is checked by pencil lifts, corner accuracy by counting corners hit, and closure by measuring the gap to the start dot.

Check: Count lifts, count corners hit, and measure the gap with a ruler; compare to the rubric.

Task 2

A plate has three long edges and two sharp corners. Your line lifts once at the second corner and ends exactly at the start dot. What is the main improvement?

Answer: Keep the pencil down through the second corner. Closure is good, but continuity fails because of the lift.

Reason: The lift breaks the single continuous contour; closure alone does not satisfy continuity.

Check: Check pencil lifts first, then closure; a zero-lift loop is required for full continuity.

Task 3

You trace a plate with six corners and hit all six, but your end point is 4 mm from the start dot. No lifts. Is the contour closed?

Answer: Not fully closed; the gap is 4 mm (hypothetical example). Continuity and corner accuracy pass, but closure needs work.

Reason: Closure is measured by the gap between the end point and the start dot; a nonzero gap means the loop is open.

Check: Measure the gap with a ruler and record it in millimeters; compare to the start dot.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A tracing box contains a continuous loop with a small drift on one curve, no labels, and a 2 mm closure gap. Score it with the rubric and state one valid alternative.

Answer: Continuity: pass. Closure: 2 mm gap (hypothetical example). Boundary only: pass. Corner accuracy: depends on marked corners. A valid alternative is a slightly different curve style as long as the loop stays continuous and closed.

Reason: The rubric rewards continuity, closure, corner accuracy, and boundary-only content; line style may vary.

Check: Use the rubric items in order: lifts, gap, corners hit, and absence of labels or context.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Continuity: the loop is drawn without lifting the pencil; zero lifts is the target.
- [ ] Closure: the end point returns to the start dot; record the gap in millimeters.
- [ ] Corner accuracy: count marked corners hit out of corners planned.
- [ ] Boundary only: no labels, scale, or geographic context inside the tracing box.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: line style and handwriting may vary; score continuity and corner accuracy, not a single universal shape.

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