Cross-Contour Pineapple Drawing: Wrap Lines to Show Rounded Form

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A pineapple body is drawn as an oval 8 cm tall and 4 cm wide. A student draws a horizontal line straight across the middle from left to right. Is this a valid cross-contour? Explain and describe how to fix it.

Answer: No. A straight horizontal line does not change direction as it crosses the oval, so it does not describe the rounded surface. To fix it, curve the line so it bows gently, dipping at the center and rising at the edges (or the reverse, depending on viewpoint), following the oval's form.

Reason: Cross-contour lines must cross the form and change direction to suggest volume. A straight line reads as flat. The fix is to curve the line with the oval's surface.

Check: Check that the line is not straight and that it follows the oval's curvature. Compare it to the oval's edge; the line should bow in a way that matches the rounded surface.

Task 2

A student draws a bump on the pineapple skin by making a small closed circle around it. Is this a cross-contour? Explain and describe an alternative.

Answer: No. A closed circle outlines the bump rather than crossing it. An alternative is to draw a single curved line that starts on one side of the bump, curves over its top, and ends on the other side. This line crosses the bump's form and suggests its volume.

Reason: Cross-contour lines cross the form; they do not outline it. A closed shape is an outline. A wrapped line changes direction over the bump and shows roundness.

Check: Check that the line is open and crosses the bump. It should start and end on opposite sides, not form a closed loop.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A pineapple body is 12 cm tall. The crown is drawn 6 cm tall. Is the crown proportion typical? Use the guideline that crown height is about one-third of body height. Show your arithmetic.

Answer: One-third of 12 cm is 4 cm. The crown is 6 cm, which is half the body height, so it is taller than the typical guideline. A more typical crown would be about 4 cm tall. The numbers are hypothetical examples; measure your own reference.

Reason: The guideline says crown height is about one-third of body height. 12 divided by 3 equals 4. Since 6 is greater than 4, the crown is too tall for the guideline.

Check: Divide body height by 3 and compare to crown height. If crown height is much larger, adjust it.

Task 4

A student draws vertical cross-contour lines on the pineapple body as straight lines from top to bottom. Describe how these lines should curve to show the oval's bulge, and explain why.

Answer: The vertical lines should bulge outward near the middle of the oval and curve inward near the top and bottom, following the oval's rounded sides. This curvature shows that the body is widest at the middle and narrows toward the ends, suggesting volume.

Reason: A vertical cross-contour on a rounded oval changes direction as it travels from top to bottom. It moves outward at the bulge and inward at the ends. Straight lines would read as flat.

Check: Check that each vertical line is not straight and that it bulges outward at the middle. Compare the line's shape to the oval's edge; it should follow the same curvature.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The body is drawn as an oval, taller than wide, with measured proportions.
- [ ] Cross-contour guide lines curve to follow the oval's surface.
- [ ] Texture lines wrap over bumps, changing direction, rather than outlining them.
- [ ] No shading is used; volume is shown by lines alone.
- [ ] The crown leaves have cross-contour lines that suggest volume.
- [ ] The drawing reads as a rounded pineapple when viewed from a step back.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: line spacing, number of bumps shown, and exact curve shapes may vary as long as lines cross the form and suggest volume.

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