Cross-Contour Drawing of a Yam: Wrapping Lines Around Irregular Form

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A yam has a deep dip on its right side between two bulges. You draw three wrap lines across that area. Describe how the middle line should behave at the dip and how spacing should change.

Answer: The middle line should curve into the dip, possibly splitting into two short curves that rejoin after the dip. Spacing should tighten at the dip and widen over the two bulges on either side.

Reason: A deep dip turns the surface away quickly, so lines crowd and may split. Bulges face the viewer more broadly, so spacing widens.

Check: Cover the outer boundary and check whether the middle line still suggests a dip between two rounded bulges. If spacing is even, revise it.

Task 2

You draw a yam with five wrap lines, but the drawing looks flat. List two spacing changes you can make and one line-shape change to improve volume.

Answer: Widen spacing over the largest bulge and tighten spacing near the tapered end. Change one straight line into a curve that follows a bump.

Reason: Flatness often comes from even spacing and straight lines. Spacing changes and curved lines describe surface change.

Check: Compare the revised spacing to the actual yam at the bulge and tip. The bulge should show wider gaps and the tip tighter gaps.

Task 3

A student draws a heavy outline and only two cross-contour lines. Explain why this weakens the study and give one fix.

Answer: The heavy outline makes the drawing read as a flat shape, and two lines may not describe enough bumps and dips. Fix by lightening the boundary and adding curved wrap lines with spacing that changes at each bump and dip.

Reason: Cross-contour volume comes from wrap lines and spacing, not from a strong edge. More descriptive lines improve form reading.

Check: Look only at the wrap lines with the boundary covered. If they do not suggest the tuber's bumps, add or revise lines.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You are redrawing a yam in a blank frame. The first pass had tight spacing over a wide bulge. What should you change in the second pass, and how will you check it?

Answer: Widen the spacing over the wide bulge in the second pass. Check by comparing the gap widths at the bulge to the actual yam and by covering the boundary to see if the wrap lines still suggest a rounded bulge.

Reason: A wide bulge faces the viewer more broadly, so wrap lines should separate more. The first pass compressed them incorrectly.

Check: Measure gap widths with a simple ruler if needed, using consistent units such as centimeters, and compare the bulge gaps to the dip gaps.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Wrap lines follow the yam's surface rather than lying flat or parallel.
- [ ] Spacing is wider over bulges and tighter over dips and the tapered end.
- [ ] Line direction is consistent within the study.
- [ ] The drawing reads as a three-dimensional irregular tuber without shading.
- [ ] Valid alternatives, such as split lines at a deep dip, are accepted if they describe form.
- [ ] Outer boundary remains light and does not replace cross-contours.

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