How to Draw Avian Leg Scales: A Tile-by-Tile Guide

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

Draw a 10 cm tall bird leg with an ankle at 6 cm from the top. Use a scale-size guide of 3 mm for shank tiles and 1.5 mm for toe tiles. Show one bridging tile at the ankle and shade with light from the upper left.

Answer: Outline the leg and mark the ankle at 6 cm. Draw 5 shank rows above the ankle with 3 mm wide tiles, then 3 foot rows below with 1.5 mm tiles. At the ankle, draw one 3 mm bridging tile that spans the joint, then continue with 1.5 mm tiles. Shade each tile’s lower right edge and highlight the upper left. Check: shank tiles are twice as wide as toe tiles; the bridging tile touches both rows; seams are visible.