How to Draw Chinese Dragon Scales with Overlapping Rows

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.

How to Draw Chinese Dragon Scales with Overlapping Rows

Worked example / complete source key

A student draws a scale panel 12 cm wide. They choose a scale width of 2 cm and draw row 1 with six scales. For row 2, where should the first scale start, and how many scales can fit if the same width is used?

Answer: Row 2 should start 1 cm from the left edge, halfway between the first two marks of row 1. With a 2 cm scale width, five full scales fit in row 2, with a half-scale at each end if the panel is filled completely. The overlap should be about one-third of the row-1 scale height.