Negative Space Leaf Drawing: See the Gaps, Draw the Leaf

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

A hypothetical leaf is 80 mm long and 35 mm wide. Three vein gaps measure 4 mm, 2 mm, and 3 mm at their widest points. Using the convention shade gaps and leave the leaf blank, describe how to lay out the drawing at scale 1 and what to check.

Answer: Write the convention line at the top. Dot gap A at 4 mm, gap B at 2 mm, and gap C at 3 mm, placing each dot where the gap is widest. Shade each dotted region with even hatching, leaving the leaf area blank. Check that the three shaded widths measure about 4 mm, 2 mm, and 3 mm, that no vein line lies inside a shaded region, and that the three gaps remain separate. The leaf outline is drawn last and passes between the shaded gaps without crossing them.