Draw Mermaid Scale Makeup: Layered Gradient and Shimmer Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A cheek zone is 10 cm wide and 6 cm tall. You draw scales 1 cm wide and rows 1 cm tall, with five scales per row. How many rows fit, and how many scales in total?

Answer: Six rows fit, giving 30 scales in total.

Reason: The zone height is 6 cm and each row is 1 cm tall, so 6 divided by 1 equals 6 rows. Each row has five scales, so 6 times 5 equals 30 scales.

Check: Multiply rows by scales per row and confirm the product equals the total; also check that 6 rows times 1 cm equals the 6 cm zone height.

Task 2

You have three tones: pale, mid, and deep. You apply the mid tone to the lower half of each scale and the deep tone to the lower edge. If the light comes from the upper right, which side of each scale stays pale?

Answer: The upper right side of each scale stays pale.

Reason: The light source is upper right, so the area closest to the light remains pale. The lower left side receives less light and takes the mid and deep tones.

Check: Draw a small arrow from the upper right and confirm that the pale area is on the same side as the arrow.

Task 3

You place one shimmer dot on every third scale in a row of nine scales. How many dots are in that row?

Answer: Three dots.

Reason: Nine scales divided by three equals three groups, and one dot per group gives three dots.

Check: Count the scales in groups of three and confirm one dot per group; the total should equal nine divided by three.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A design uses five scales per row and six rows. You want to add one deep accent to the lower edge of every scale in the bottom two rows only. How many deep accents are added?

Answer: Ten deep accents.

Reason: The bottom two rows contain two rows times five scales, which equals ten scales. One accent per scale gives ten accents.

Check: Multiply the number of rows receiving accents by scales per row and confirm the product equals the count of accents.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Scale convention is defined and applied consistently across rows.
- [ ] Scale count per row is stable or adjusted deliberately when the zone narrows.
- [ ] Gradient uses three tones and follows the marked light direction without reversal.
- [ ] Each pass is blended after drying so colors remain distinct.
- [ ] Shimmer is placed in two deliberate patterns and does not hide scale edges.
- [ ] Final counts and color choices are recorded for repeatability.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the convention is clear and the gradient direction is consistent.

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