Draw a Monet-Style Bridge: Arch and Reflection Worksheet Plan

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw only the arch guide on a landscape page: mark a deck baseline, two springing points 10 cm apart (hypothetical), and a top point 5 cm above the midpoint. Draw a smooth curve through the points.

Answer: A smooth arch curve connects the two springing points and passes through the top point, with no sharp corners.

Reason: The three-point method gives a checkable curve; the top height is half the width in this hypothetical example, making symmetry easy to check.

Check: Measure the distance from each springing point to the top point; they should be similar. Fold the page along the midpoint to check symmetry.

Task 2

Add a deck band and five posts to the arch from the previous exercise. Keep the posts vertical and evenly spaced, and do not let any post cross the arch.

Answer: Two parallel deck lines sit above the arch, and five vertical posts are spaced evenly between them, with the middle post aligned to the arch top.

Reason: Even spacing and vertical posts keep the bridge structure clear; aligning the middle post to the arch top provides a simple reference.

Check: Measure the gaps between posts; they should be equal or nearly equal. Check that each post starts and ends on the deck lines and does not touch the arch curve.

Task 3

Below a waterline, draw the reflection of the arch and posts from the previous exercise. Add at least six horizontal ripple marks across the reflection area.

Answer: The arch and post reflections sit directly below their originals, are lighter in line weight, and are crossed by horizontal ripple marks.

Reason: Mirroring the main shapes downward creates a believable reflection; ripples break the reflection lines to suggest water movement.

Check: Compare the distance from the waterline to the arch top with the distance from the waterline to the bottom of the arch reflection; they should be similar. Count the ripple marks and check that they are roughly horizontal.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Color the bridge and reflection using at least three colors and short overlapping strokes. Keep the arch edge and ripple marks visible, then check the drawing from a short distance.

Answer: The colored drawing shows a distinguishable arch, a lighter reflection, and visible ripple marks; the palette may differ from the suggestion guide.

Reason: Short strokes preserve edges and texture; a limited palette keeps the bridge and reflection readable.

Check: View the page from about one meter away. Confirm that the arch still reads as a curve and the reflection still reads as a mirrored shape. Check that no flat fill hides the arch edge or ripples.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Arch is smooth and roughly symmetrical, with clear springing points.
- [ ] Deck lines are parallel and posts are evenly spaced without crossing the arch.
- [ ] Reflection mirrors the bridge and is lighter or less detailed than the bridge.
- [ ] Ripple marks are present and suggest water movement without hiding the reflection.
- [ ] Color and brushstrokes support the arch and reflection; alternative palettes are acceptable if legibility is maintained.
- [ ] Small details use a consistent personal x-height reference; any consistent x-height is valid.

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