Contour Line Drawing of a Leaf and Stone: A Focused Nature Study

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A leaf is 10 cm long and 5 cm wide. Draw its contour from above with a uniform line weight. Describe where the edge changes direction at least three times.

Answer: The drawing should show a continuous leaf silhouette with a length-to-width ratio of about 2:1. Three direction changes might be: at the tip (out to in), at a serration (in to out), and at the stem base (out to straight). No shading or veins are required.

Reason: The ratio 10:5 simplifies to 2:1, which is checkable with a ruler. Direction changes are observable on the real leaf and should be marked in the drawing.

Check: Measure the drawn leaf length and width; divide length by width. The result should be close to 2. Trace the outline with your finger and count at least three clear direction changes.

Task 2

A stone is 7 cm wide and 4 cm tall. Draw its contour from the side with a heavier silhouette and one lighter interior facet edge. State your line-weight convention.

Answer: The drawing should show a continuous stone silhouette with a width-to-height ratio of about 7:4. One lighter interior facet edge is included. The convention statement might read: 'Heavier line for silhouette, lighter line for interior facet.'

Reason: The ratio 7:4 is about 1.75:1, which can be checked by measuring. The convention must be stated to satisfy the rubric.

Check: Measure drawn width and height; divide width by height. The result should be close to 1.75. Confirm the convention is written at the top and that the interior edge is visibly lighter.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a leaf with one visible curl. The leaf is 6 cm long and 3 cm wide. Use a lighter line for the curl edge. Describe how the curl edge connects to the silhouette.

Answer: The drawing should show a leaf silhouette with a 2:1 length-to-width ratio and a second lighter line representing the curl edge. The curl edge should meet the silhouette at two points where the leaf folds.

Reason: A curl creates an interior edge that connects to the outer outline. The ratio 6:3 simplifies to 2:1, which is checkable.

Check: Measure length and width; confirm ratio near 2:1. Trace the curl edge and confirm it touches the silhouette at two points. Confirm the curl line is lighter than the silhouette.

Task 4

Draw a stone with one chip that changes the silhouette. The stone is 5 cm wide and 5 cm tall. Use a uniform line weight. Mark the chip edge with a short line and state your viewing direction.

Answer: The drawing should show a roughly square stone silhouette with a 1:1 width-to-height ratio. The chip edge is a short line that interrupts the smooth outline. The viewing direction is stated, for example 'viewed from the front'.

Reason: A 5 cm by 5 cm stone has equal width and height, so the ratio is 1:1. A chip that changes the silhouette must appear as a deviation in the outline.

Check: Measure drawn width and height; they should be approximately equal. Confirm the chip edge is visible as a short line on the silhouette. Confirm the viewing direction is written on the page.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Contour only: no shading or interior texture; edges define the form.
- [ ] Leaf silhouette is continuous and recognizable; stem attaches correctly.
- [ ] Stone silhouette is continuous and recognizable; contact edge is shown.
- [ ] Proportion is checked and approximately correct for both objects.
- [ ] Line-weight convention is stated and applied consistently; valid alternatives accepted.
- [ ] Viewing direction is noted and consistent throughout the drawing.

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