Draw Overlapping Dragon Scale Rows: A Step-by-Step Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw two rows of scales with width 12 mm and height 9 mm. Offset the second row by 6 mm. Describe where the overlap shadow goes.

Answer: Two staggered rows with the second row offset by 6 mm; shadow along the lower edge of each second-row scale where it covers the first row.

Reason: Offsetting by half the width staggers scales. The upper row overlaps the lower, so its lower edge casts the shadow.

Check: Measure tick spacing: 12 mm in row one, first tick at 6 mm in row two. Confirm shadow is only on lower overlap edges.

Task 2

A learner draws three rows but all scales line up vertically. State the fix and the new offset for a 14 mm scale width.

Answer: Offset each new row by half the width, so 7 mm for a 14 mm scale.

Reason: Vertical alignment happens when rows share the same tick positions. Half-width offset staggers them.

Check: Check that row two ticks start 7 mm right of row one ticks and row three starts 7 mm right of row two.

Task 3

Draw one row of five scales, width 8 mm, height 6 mm. Then draw a second row of four scales offset by 4 mm. Count visible overlaps.

Answer: Four visible overlaps, one for each scale in the second row.

Reason: Each upper scale overlaps one lower scale. With four upper scales, there are four overlap edges.

Check: Count second-row scales and confirm each has a shaded lower edge touching a first-row scale.

Draw Overlapping Dragon Scale Rows: A Step-by-Step Guide

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A scale row looks muddy because shading covers the whole scale. Give a correction using a narrow edge band. Use a hypothetical scale width of 10 mm and height of 8 mm, and state a band width for that scale.

Answer: Erase broad shading and shade only a narrow lower edge band, about 1.6 mm wide for a 10 mm-wide, 8 mm-tall scale (roughly one fifth of the scale height).

Reason: Depth comes from the overlap shadow, not full-scale shading. A narrow band keeps the row clear.

Check: Measure the shaded band: it should be about one fifth of the scale height. For the hypothetical 8 mm height, that is about 1.6 mm; confirm the band stays narrow and sits only on the lower overlap edge.

Draw Overlapping Dragon Scale Rows: A Step-by-Step Guide

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Rows are staggered by about half a scale width.
- [ ] Upper rows overlap lower rows consistently.
- [ ] Scale height stays close to the chosen midline.
- [ ] Shading is limited to the lower overlap edge.
- [ ] Guides are faint and erased where possible.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in scale shape are accepted if row rhythm remains even.

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