Underwater Contour Drawing: Fish and Coral Outlines

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Text description: a coral branch with a main stem 5 cm tall and two side branches splitting at 2 cm and 4 cm from the base. Draw a blind contour in a hypothetical 12 cm by 8 cm box for 60 seconds. Identify three edges: main stem outline, first branch edge, second branch edge.

Answer: A blind contour with one continuous line per identified edge, drawn without looking at the paper. The lines may be distorted; the answer is the completed box with three distinct edges and a note of the duration.

Reason: The exercise trains edge observation under blind conditions. The check is procedural: eyes on subject, three edges drawn, duration recorded.

Check: Count the distinct edges in the box; confirm the duration note; confirm no shading or color.

Task 2

Text description: a fish with an oval body 8 cm long and 4 cm high, a forked tail on the right, and a dorsal fin curve on top. Draw an observed contour in a hypothetical 15 cm by 10 cm box. Use three edge prompts: body outline, tail edge, dorsal fin edge. Name each line.

Answer: An observed contour with three named lines corresponding to the body outline, tail edge, and dorsal fin edge. Gaps are left where the fin attaches if hidden. A valid alternative is drawing the forked tail as two curves meeting at a visible point.

Reason: The exercise practices correspondence between drawn lines and described edges. Naming each line makes the check explicit.

Check: Verify three named edges; check that each line matches the described direction and relative length; confirm no shading.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Text description: a coral with a base contact edge 3 cm wide and three branches rising from it. Draw an observed contour in a hypothetical 15 cm by 10 cm box. Use four edge prompts: base contact, left branch, middle branch, right branch. Leave gaps where branches overlap.

Answer: An observed contour with four named lines for the base contact and three branches. Overlapping branch edges are drawn as separate lines that cross, or gaps are left where one branch hides another. The answer includes a count of four named edges.

Reason: The exercise tests handling of overlaps and hidden edges, which are common in coral. The check is the count of named edges and the presence of gaps or crossing lines.

Check: Count four named edges; confirm gaps or crossing lines at overlaps; confirm box size recorded in centimeters.

Task 4

Text description: a fish with a round body 5 cm diameter, a small tail triangle on the right, and two pectoral fins on the left. Draw a blind contour for 45 seconds in a hypothetical 12 cm by 8 cm box, then an observed contour in a hypothetical 15 cm by 10 cm box with four edge prompts: body outline, tail edge, upper pectoral fin, lower pectoral fin. Compare the two boxes by naming one correspondence and one difference.

Answer: Two boxes: a blind contour with at least three edges and a duration note, and an observed contour with four named edges. The comparison names one correspondence (e.g., both include a body outline) and one difference (e.g., the observed box has a clearer tail edge).

Reason: The exercise combines blind and observed practice and requires a simple comparison, reinforcing the check method.

Check: Verify the blind box has at least three edges and a duration note; verify the observed box has four named edges; confirm the comparison names one correspondence and one difference.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Convention followed: only single continuous lines for visible edges; no shading or color.
- [ ] Blind contour box completed with eyes on subject and at least three distinct edges drawn.
- [ ] Observed contour box includes four edge prompts and four named edges.
- [ ] Gaps left where edges are hidden; no hidden edges drawn as visible.
- [ ] Box sizes measured and recorded in centimeters.
- [ ] Valid alternatives accepted when drawn lines correspond to visible edges.

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