Draw Your Zodiac Symbol Worksheet: Grid Tracing and Freehand Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 10 by 10 grid with 1 cm cells, a glyph's main body is drawn from the baseline to the midline, a distance of 3 cells. The glyph's top arc extends 1 cell above the midline. What is the total height from baseline to the top of the arc in cells and in centimeters?

Answer: 4 cells, which is 4 cm.

Reason: Baseline to midline is 3 cells. The arc extends 1 cell above the midline. Total height is 3 + 1 = 4 cells. With 1 cm cells, 4 cells equals 4 cm.

Check: Count the cells from baseline to midline, add the extension cells, then multiply by the cell size written on the page.

Task 2

A learner traces a glyph with three strokes but redraws it freehand with the second and third strokes swapped. The shape still looks similar. Does this meet the rubric? Explain using the stroke-order criterion.

Answer: No, it does not meet the rubric because stroke order must match the arrows.

Reason: The rubric requires stroke order to match the arrows for every stroke. Swapping strokes changes the construction order even if the final shape looks similar.

Check: Compare the freehand stroke sequence to the arrow sequence stroke by stroke and mark any swap.

Task 3

A glyph is drawn in a 6-cell box. Its leftmost point is on the box's left edge and its rightmost point is on the box's right edge. The learner says the glyph is too wide because it touches both edges. Is the learner correct under the convention?

Answer: No, touching the box edges is allowed as long as the glyph stays inside the box.

Reason: The convention requires the glyph to stay inside the 6-cell drawing box. Touching the edges does not violate the rule; spilling outside would.

Check: Check whether any part of the glyph crosses outside the box lines. If all strokes are inside or on the lines, the width is acceptable.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A learner draws a glyph whose main body sits between baseline and midline, but a loop extends 2 cells below the baseline. The convention allows up to 1 cell below the baseline. What correction is needed, and what should the learner record?

Answer: Reduce the downward extension to 1 cell or less, and record the final extension value on the page.

Reason: The allowed extension below the baseline is up to 1 cell. A 2-cell extension exceeds the limit, so the loop must be raised or shortened. Recording the extension keeps the check consistent.

Check: Measure from the baseline to the lowest point of the loop in cells. If it is greater than 1, adjust and re-measure.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stroke order matches the arrows for every stroke.
- [ ] Main body sits between baseline and midline, with any extension noted and within one cell.
- [ ] Glyph stays inside the 6-cell drawing box.
- [ ] Loops close and crosses meet cleanly.
- [ ] Freehand redraw uses the same stroke order as the traced version.
- [ ] Valid stylistic alternatives are accepted if size and placement rules are met.

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