

How to Draw a Dandelion

12 easy steps for beginners



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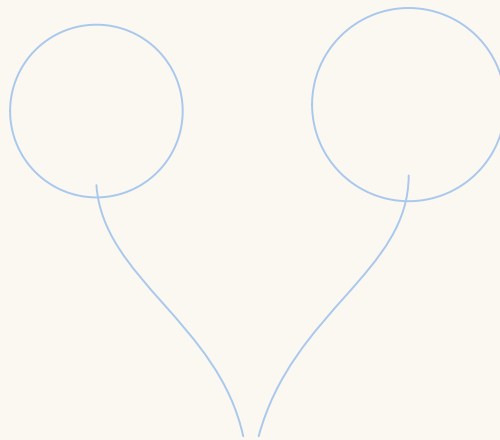
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

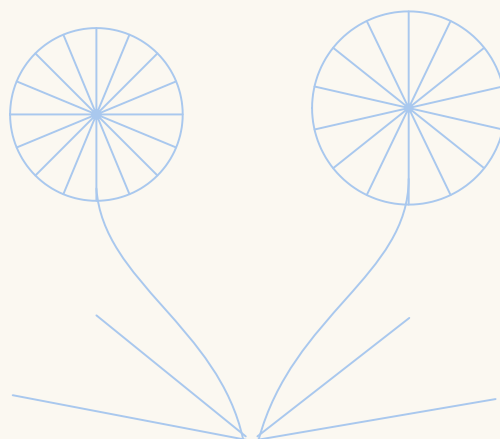
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Sketch two circles and two stem lines

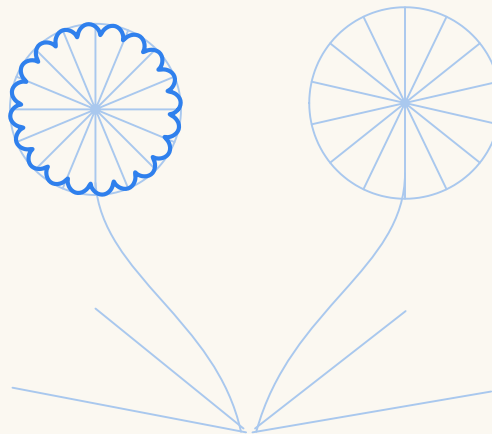
In the top half of your paper, draw two circles with a gap between them. Make the right one a little bigger, since a seed head is puffier than the flower. From the bottom of each circle, draw a long curved line down to one point at the bottom middle, like a narrow V with wavy arms.

 **Tip:** Trace around a coin or a bottle cap if freehand circles keep coming out lopsided.

STEP 2 Add spokes and leaf lines

Put a dot in the middle of each circle and draw straight lines from it out to the edge, like slicing a pizza. I start with the four lines of a plus sign, then fill the gaps, which keeps the spacing even. At the bottom point, fan out four straight leaf lines: two long, low ones and two shorter, steeper ones.

 **Tip:** Spokes are only helpers, so keep them faint enough to erase in one pass.

STEP 3 Draw the ring of rounded petals

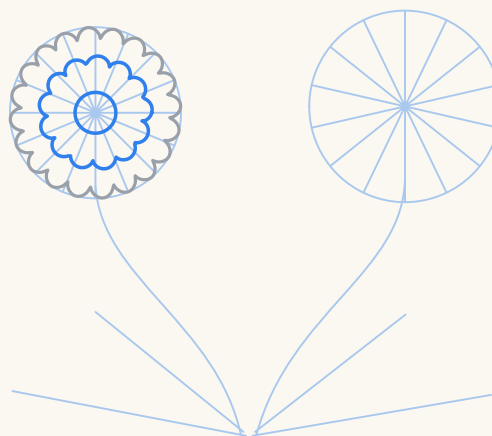
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On the left circle, go around the edge with small rounded bumps, all about the same size, sitting right on the line. I use about twenty, but nobody will count them. What matters is that they stay small. Big bumps turn a dandelion into a daisy.

Tip: Turn the paper slowly as you work around the circle so every bump is drawn at the same angle.

STEP 4 Add the inner petals and the centre

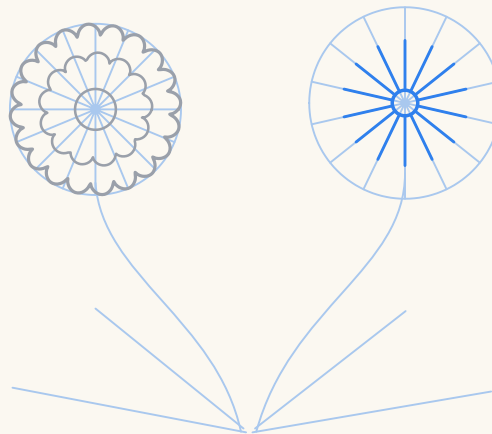
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Inside the first ring, draw a second, smaller ring of bumps about two thirds of the way in, then a small circle on the centre dot. A real dandelion flower packs in hundreds of tiny petals, and two rings show that crowded look without drawing every one.

Tip: I leave an even gap between the two petal rings so the flower looks layered, not squashed.

STEP 5 Draw the seed stalks from the core

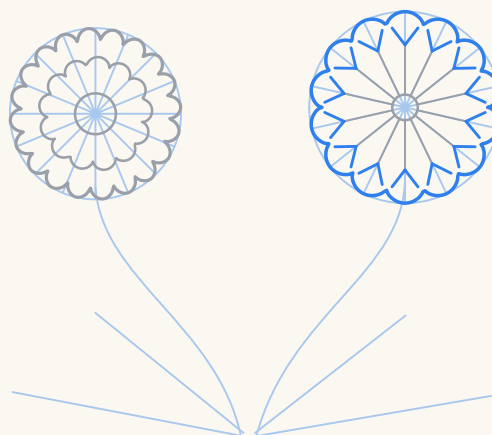
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On the right circle, draw a tiny core on the centre dot. From it, draw straight lines outward along your spokes, stopping about two thirds of the way to the edge. Each line is one seed stalk. This is where the radiating idea pays off, because every stalk points back to the same dot.

 **Tip:** Pull every stalk away from the centre, not toward it, so they all start cleanly at the core.

STEP 6 Give each seed a fluffy tuft

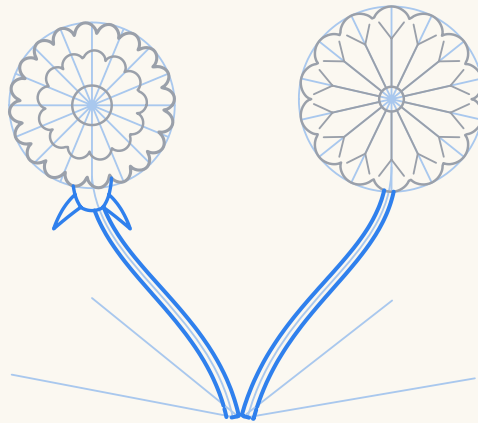
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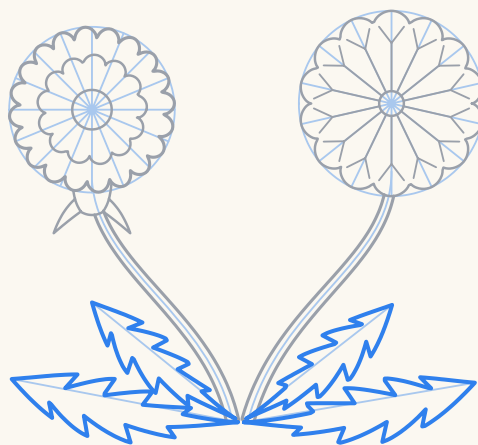
Around the outside of the right circle, draw a ring of soft bumps, one above each stalk. From the tip of every stalk, draw two short lines that open like a little V toward its bump. Each stalk now looks like a tiny umbrella, and the circle reads as a fuzzy ball.

 **Tip:** Keep each V narrow. Wide ones run into their neighbours and the head turns into a star pattern.

STEP 7 Draw the stems and the green cup

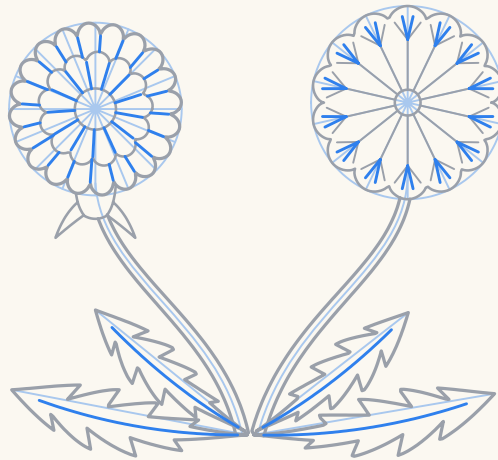
Trace each stem line on both sides to make a thin tube, a little wider at the bottom than at the top. Under the yellow flower, add a small rounded cup with two pointed bracts curling down. I leave the cup off the seed head, because by that stage the green parts have folded away.

 **Tip:** Let the two stem lines get slightly closer near the flower; a stem that tapers looks alive.

STEP 8 Draw the jagged lion's tooth leaves

The name dandelion comes from the French for lion's tooth, and the leaves show why. Along each leaf line, draw a long narrow shape with sharp teeth on both edges. The detail most people miss: the teeth point back toward the bottom of the plant. Draw the two short leaves first, then the long ones in front.

 **Tip:** Make the teeth smaller near the tip of each leaf, and the leaf will look like it narrows naturally.

STEP 9 Add petal lines and leaf veins

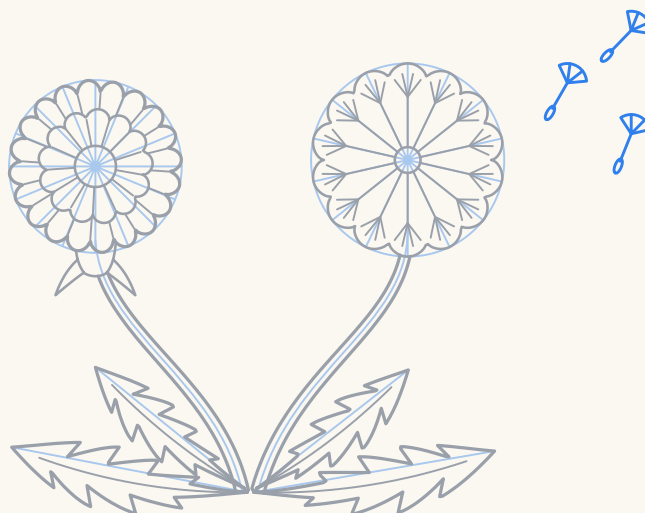
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In the flower, draw a short line in from every dip between the outer petals, and do the same for the inner ring. Those lines split the rings into separate petals. Add two tiny lines inside each seed tuft for extra fluff, and one gentle curve down the middle of every leaf.

 **Tip:** Use a lighter hand on these small lines than on the outlines, or the flower gets crowded.

STEP 10 Draw seeds floating away

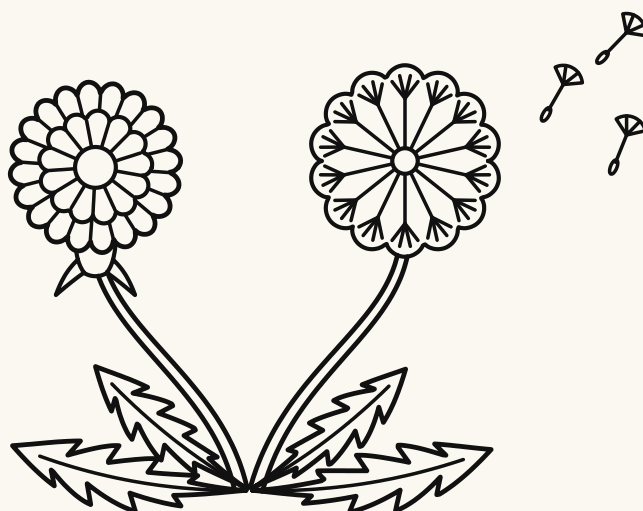
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Up and to the right of the seed head, draw three loose seeds a breeze just carried off. Each is a short slanted line with a small fan on top and a tiny oval at the bottom. Tilt them a little differently and space them unevenly so they look like they're drifting.

 **Tip:** Point all three fans roughly the same way, as if the same breeze is pushing them.

STEP 11 Ink the drawing and erase the guides

Go over every line you want to keep with your black pen. I ink the seed head first, since its thin lines need the steadiest hand. Skip the circles, spokes and leaf lines. Let the ink dry for a minute, then erase all the pencil.

 **Tip:** Ink the long stem lines in one smooth stroke each; stopping halfway leaves a little bump.

STEP 12 Color your dandelions

Color the outer petals yellow, the inner ones golden yellow and the centre orange. Use light green for the stems and cup, and a darker green for the leaves. Leave the seed head white except for pale gray on its lower right side and tan in the core. The floating seeds get tiny brown ovals.

 **Tip:** Color around the white seed head first so you don't drag green or yellow into it by accident.