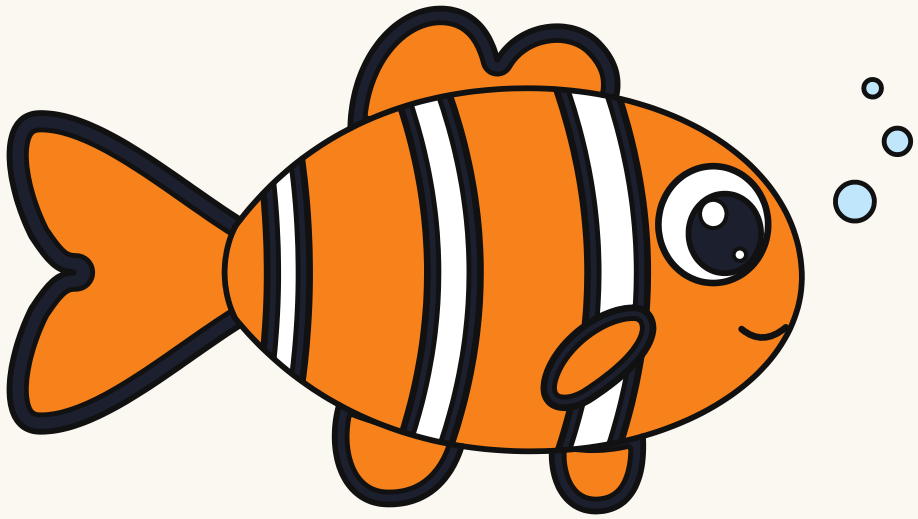
How to Draw Nemo

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

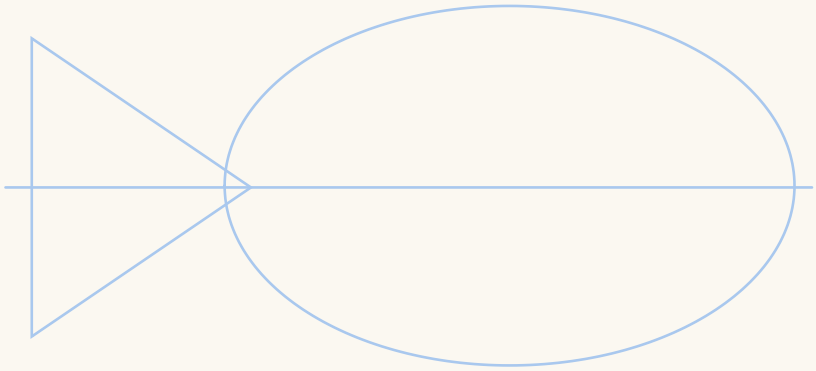
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Orange and black colors
- Plain paper

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 →

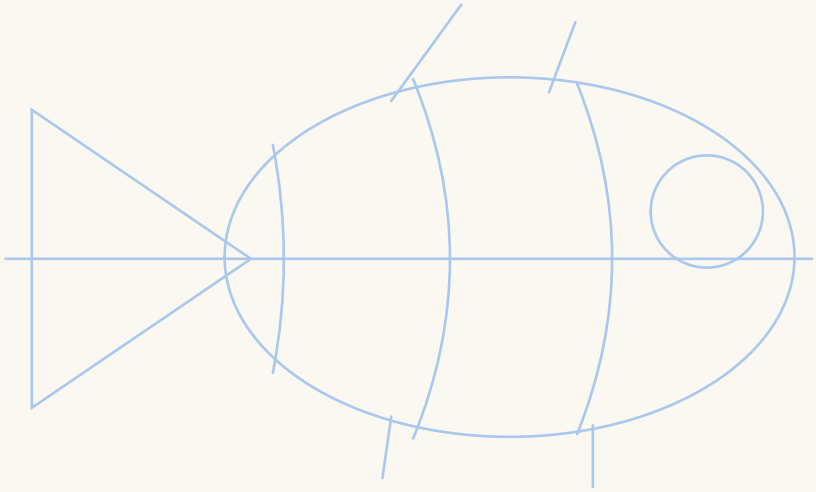
STEP 1 Sketch a body oval and a tail triangle



Draw a long horizontal line across the middle of the page. On the right half, sketch a wide oval for the body, a bit wider than it is tall. Then add a sideways triangle on the left with its point touching the oval. That triangle marks where the tail fans out.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the oval big. A tiny body leaves you no room for the stripes later.

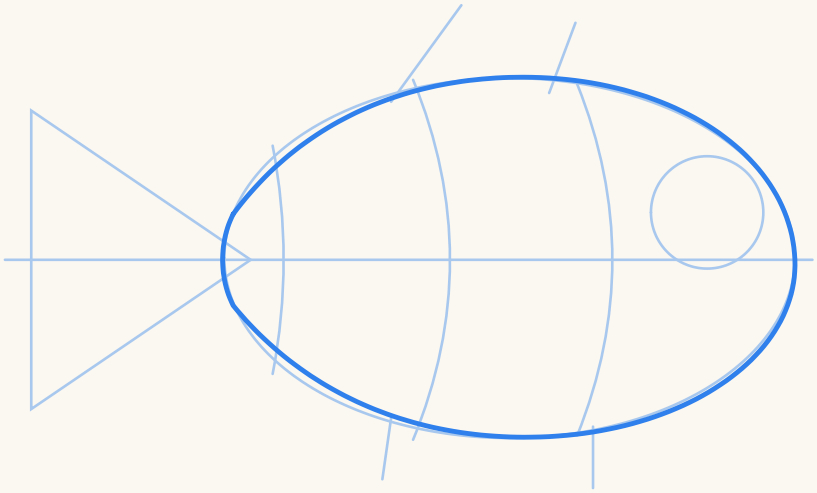
STEP 2 Add eye, fin and stripe guides



Near the right end of the oval, just above the middle line, draw a circle for the eye. Next, three curved lines run from top to bottom across the body. Space them out: one close to the tail, one in the middle and one just behind the eye. Finish with four short ticks, two above and two below, to show where the fins will go.

💡 **Tip:** Bend all three stripe guides the same way, like a row of brackets facing the head.

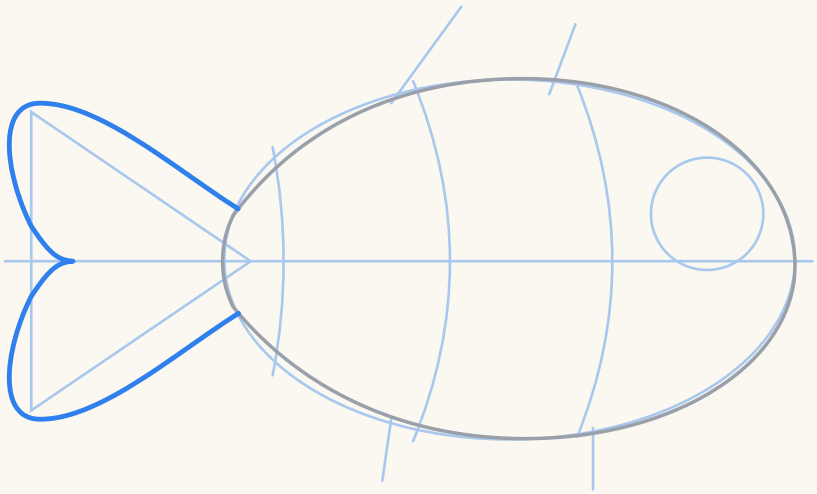
STEP 3 Draw a chubby fish body



Now press a bit harder and draw the real body over the oval. Make the head end round and full, and let the back narrow toward the tail where it meets the triangle. Close it with a small rounded end at the tail base. I keep the front almost circular, because a pointy nose makes him look like a shark.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the top curve and the bottom curve as two separate strokes. Each one stays smoother that way.

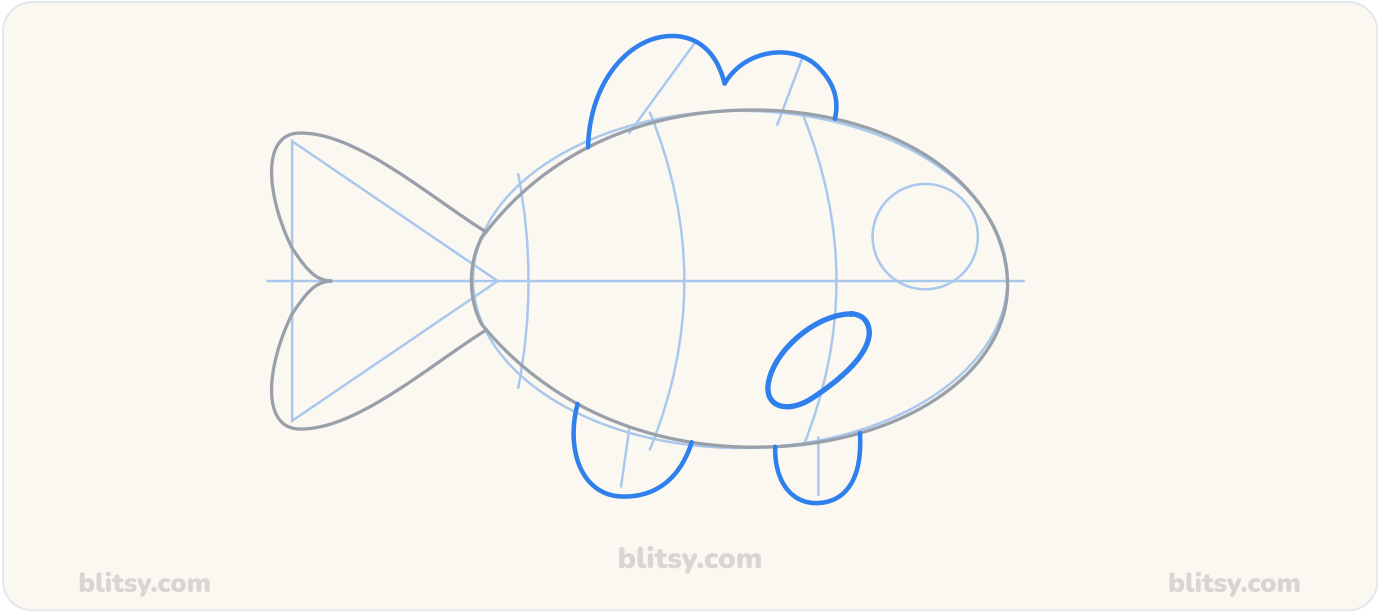
STEP 4 Draw a round fan tail



Use the triangle as your frame. From the top of the tail base, sweep a curve out to a rounded upper lobe, dip in to a small notch at the center line, and swing back out to a matching lower lobe. Then curve back to the bottom of the tail base. Stop the lines where they reach the body.

💡 **Tip:** Make the notch shallow. A deep cut splits the tail in two and looks like a whale fluke.

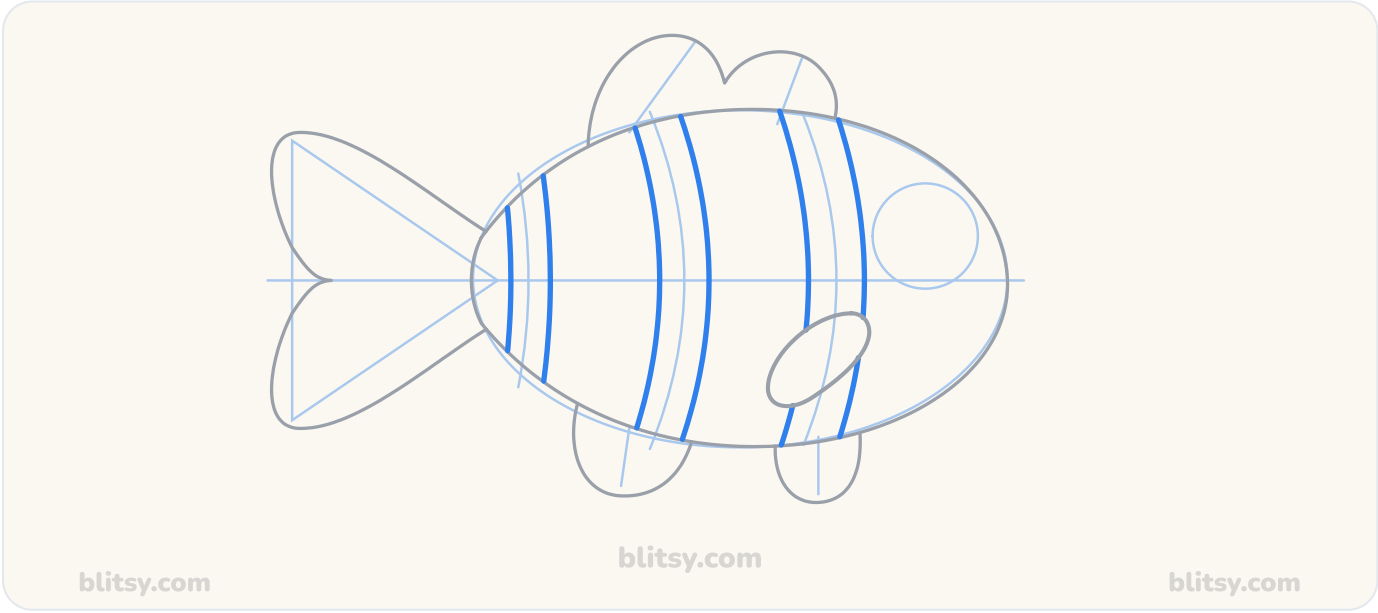
STEP 5 Add the top, bottom and side fins



On top, draw a fin with two bumps and a little dip between them, using the two upper ticks as its edges. Underneath, add two small rounded fins, one under the middle and one under the head. Then draw a short oval side fin low on the body, tilted down toward the tail. It overlaps the front stripe guide, and that's fine.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the bottom fins smaller than the top one so the fish doesn't look like it's standing on legs.

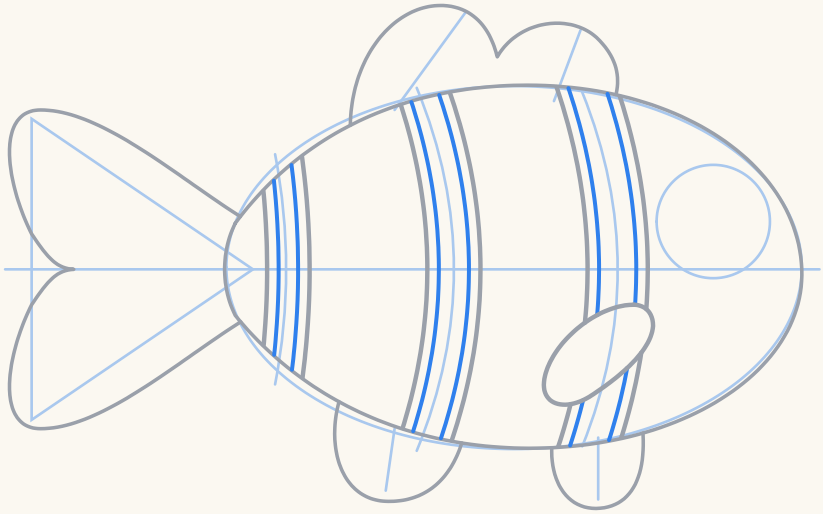
STEP 6 Draw three curved stripes



Each stripe is a band with two edges. Draw one line on each side of every stripe guide, running from the top of the body to the bottom. The stripe near the tail is the thinnest, the middle one is wider and the head stripe is the widest. Skip the lines where the side fin covers the body.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a bit more orange between the stripes than the stripes are wide. Too much white turns him into a zebra fish.

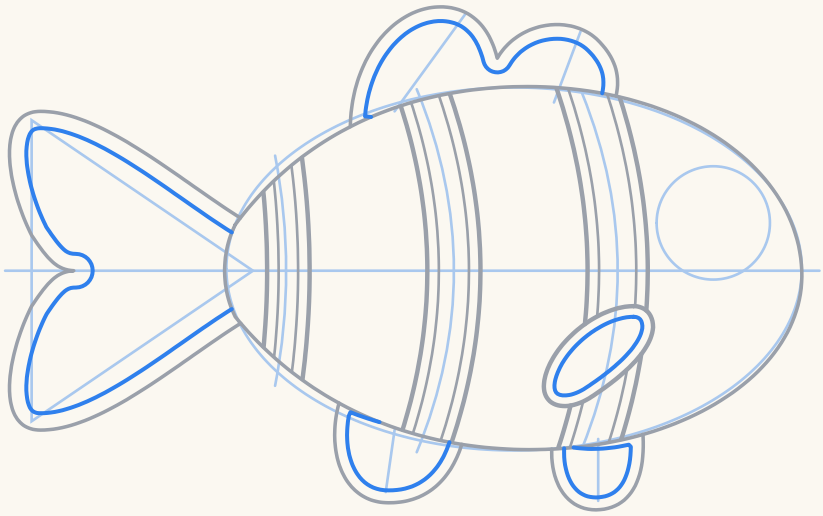
STEP 7 Add the stripe edges



Clownfish stripes have thin black borders. To show them, draw a second line just inside each edge you drew in the last step, so every white band gets a narrow strip on both sides. This takes patience, and younger kids can skip it and simply use a thick marker on the stripe outlines instead.

💡 **Tip:** Rest your little finger on the paper while you draw these close lines. It steadies your hand.

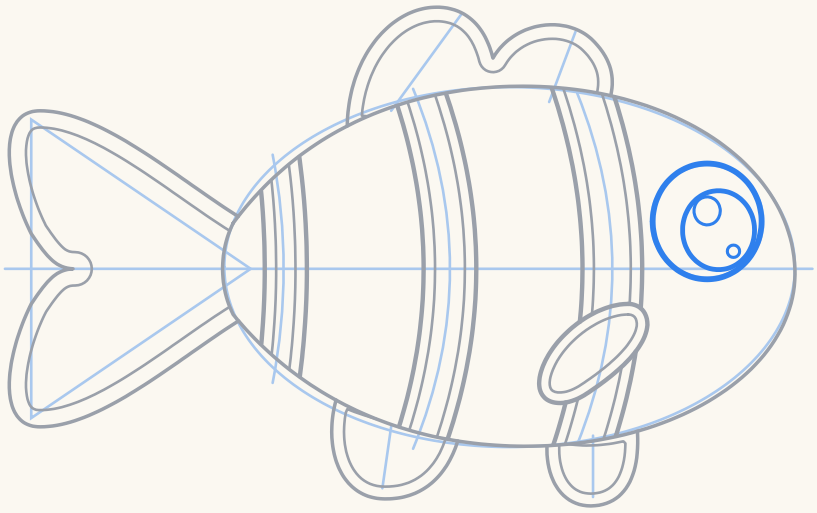
STEP 8 Draw the black fin tips



Clownfish fins have dark edges, and they're what makes the fish look finished. Inside each fin, draw a line that follows the outer edge about a finger width in. Do it on the tail, the top fin, both bottom fins and the side fin. Let the line stop where the fin disappears behind the body.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the band the same width all the way around. Uneven tips look like smudges.

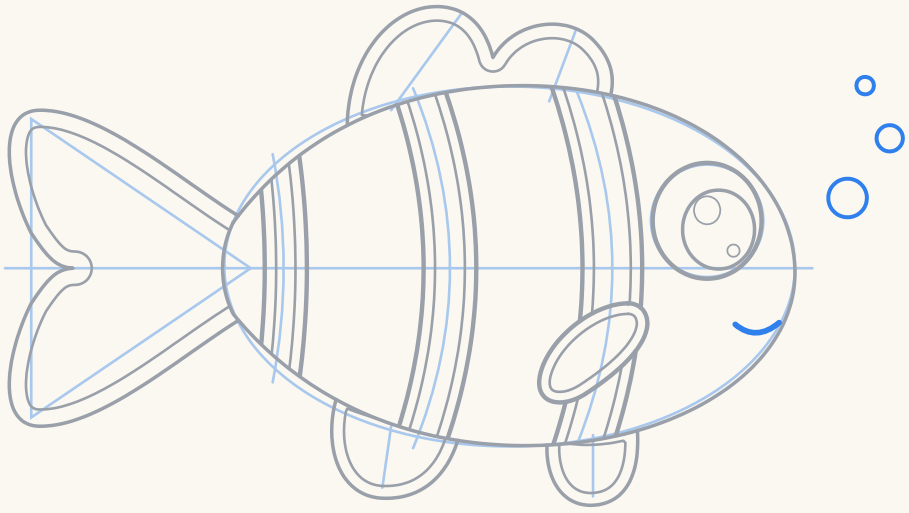
STEP 9 Draw a big eye with shines



Go over the eye circle with a clean line, then draw a large round pupil inside it, nudged slightly toward the front and bottom. Add one big shine circle at the top of the pupil and a tiny dot lower down. The eye should be large, since Nemo's charm comes almost entirely from it.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the shines empty from the start. Coloring around a small white circle is easier than erasing one later.

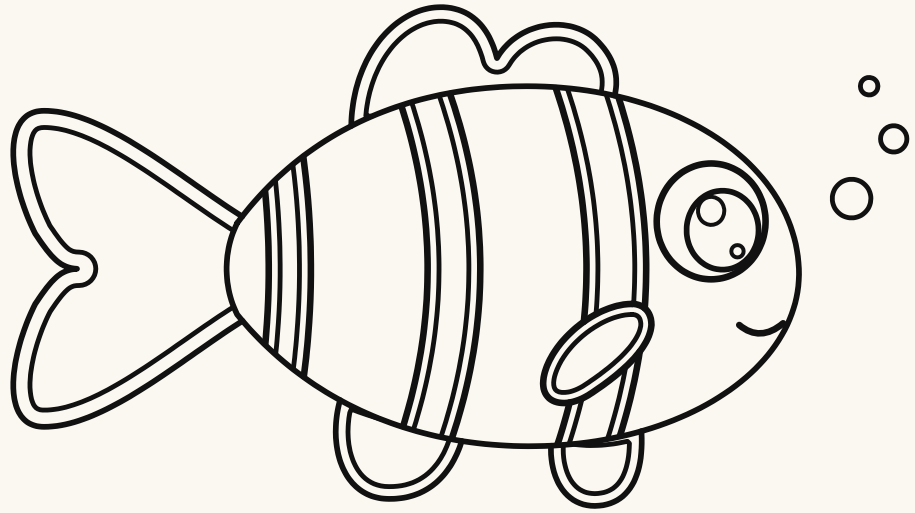
STEP 10 Add a smile and some bubbles



Below the eye and close to the front of the head, draw a short curved smile. Keep it small and slightly tilted up at the front. Then add three bubbles rising in front of his face, getting smaller as they go up. Most beginners draw the mouth too far back. It belongs near the nose.

💡 **Tip:** Space the bubbles unevenly. A perfectly straight line of circles looks like buttons.

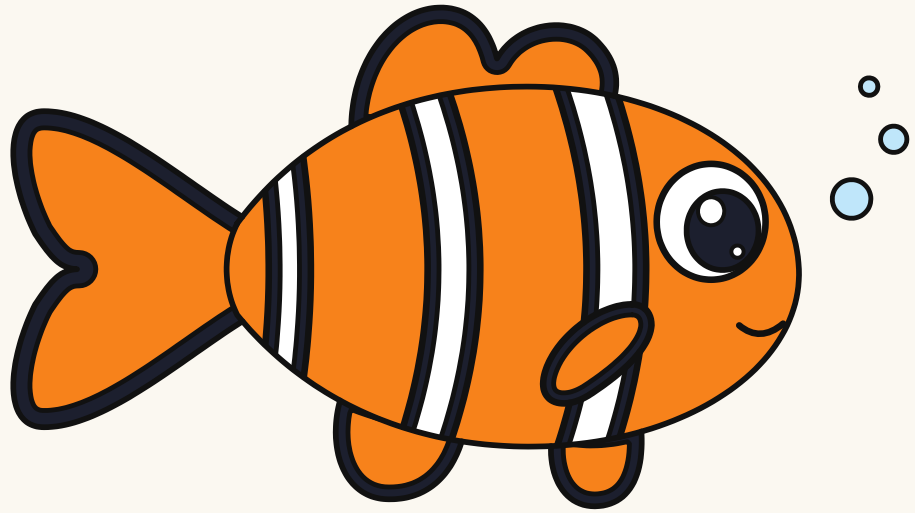
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace over every keeper line with your black marker. I begin with the eye, because it's the part where a wobble shows most, then move to the body and fins. Leave the guide oval, the triangle and the straight lines alone. Wait a minute for the ink to dry before you erase all the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper so you always pull the marker toward you. Pushed lines tend to shake.

STEP 12 Color your Nemo



Fill the body and the middle of every fin with a bright orange. Color the thin borders of the stripes and the fin tips black, and leave the stripes themselves white. The pupil goes black too, with the shines left white. A light blue for the bubbles finishes the picture.

💡 **Tip:** Do the black parts last. Orange dragged over black looks muddy, but black covers small mistakes.