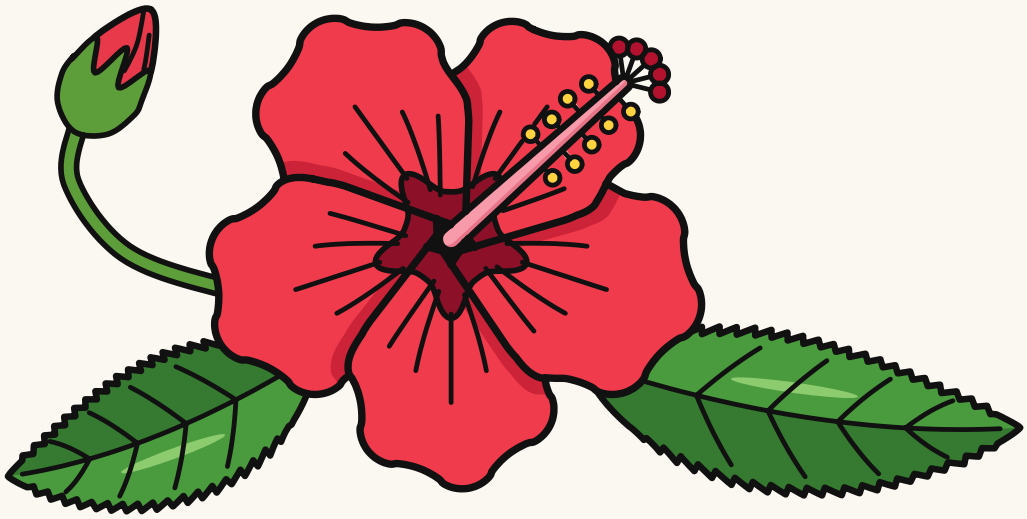
How to Draw a Hibiscus

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

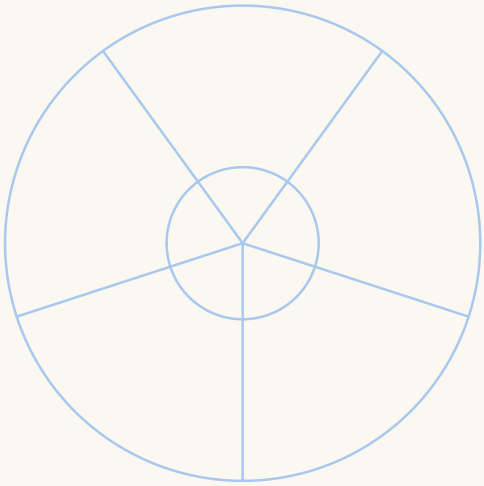
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

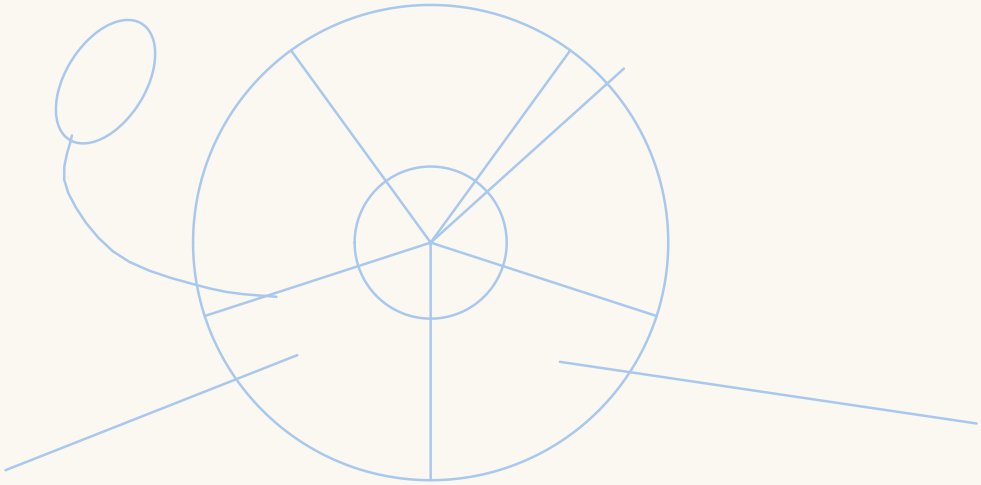
STEP 1 Sketch a circle with five spokes



Draw a large circle a little left of the middle of your page, then a small circle in its centre. From the centre point, draw five straight lines to the edge, spaced like the points of a star. One line points straight down. Each spoke marks where a petal will go, so even gaps here mean even petals later.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bottom spoke first, then place the other four by eye around the clock.

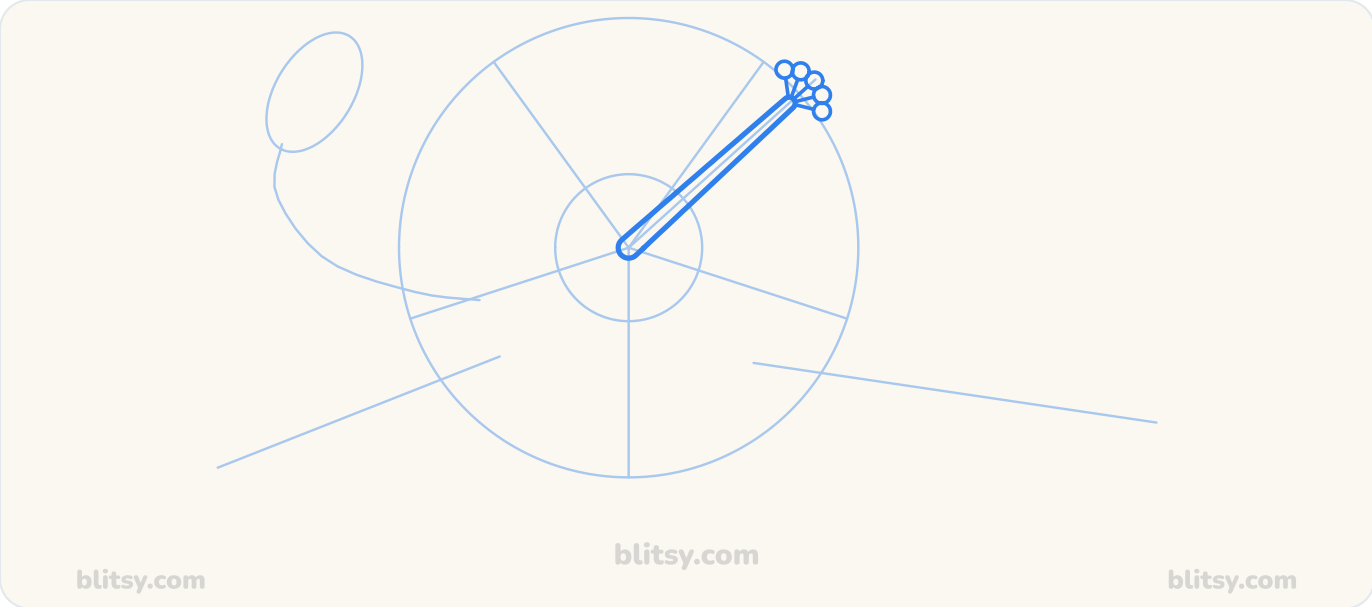
STEP 2 Place guides for the column, leaves and the bud



I like to place everything else before any real drawing starts. Draw a straight line from the centre up and to the right, past the circle edge. That's the column. Two long lines going left and right from the bottom of the circle become the leaves. In the top left corner, sketch a small tilted oval with a curved line hanging down from it for the bud.

💡 **Tip:** If the right leaf line runs off the page, shorten both leaf lines a little and keep them balanced.

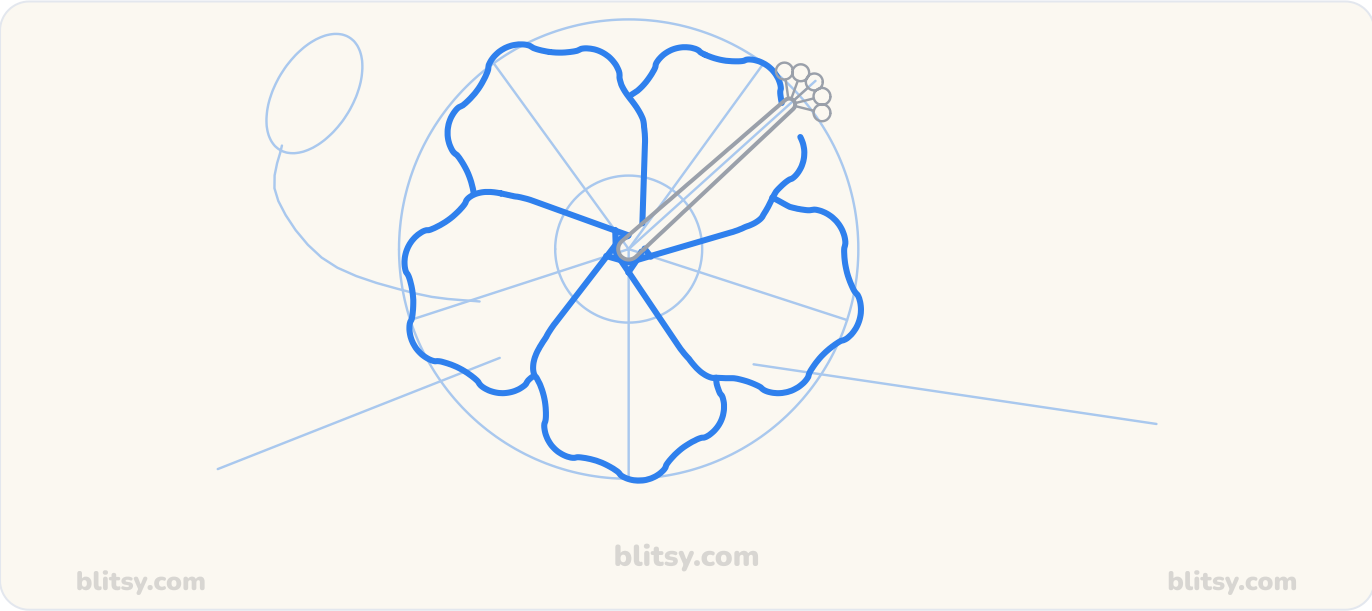
STEP 3 Draw the column and five red pads



I draw the column before the petals, because it sits in front of them. Trace your column line on both sides to make a thin tube, a little wider at the centre than at the tip. At the tip, draw five short stalks fanning out with a small circle on each. Those circles are the stigma pads, and they're the part kids remember most.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the tube no wider than your little finger on the page; a fat column swallows the flower.

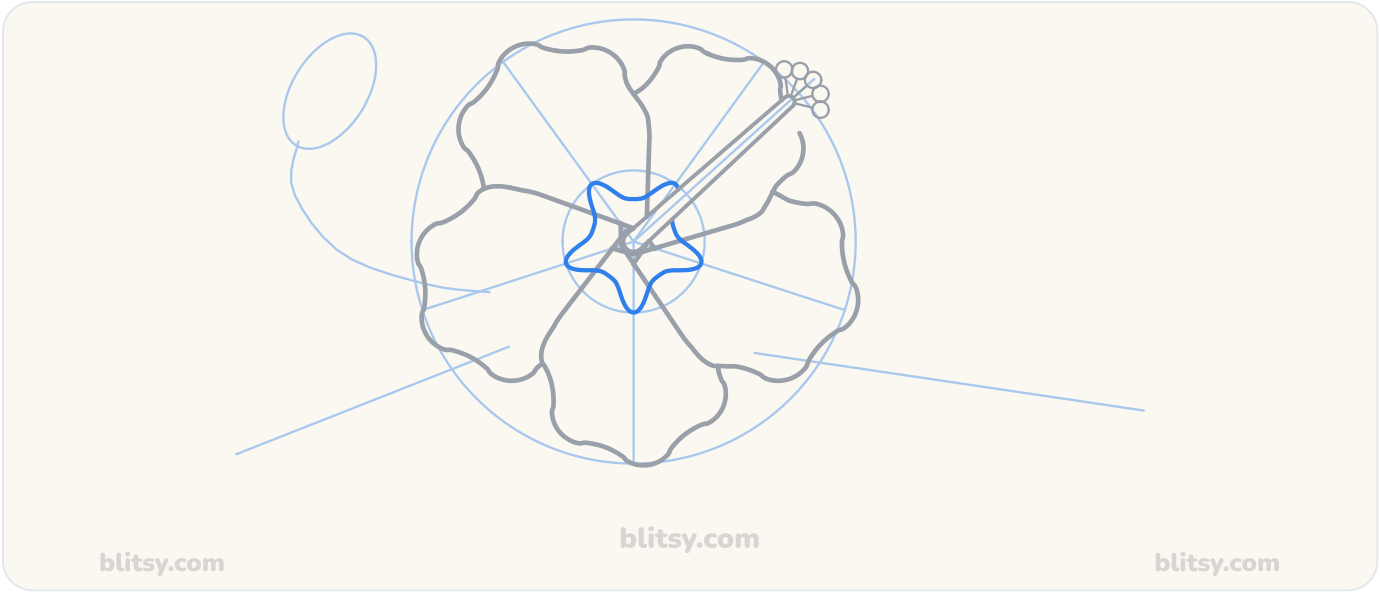
STEP 4 Draw five wide ruffled petals



Around each spoke, draw a petal that starts narrow at the centre and opens into a wide, rounded end touching the big circle. Give the rim a few soft waves instead of a smooth curve. Each petal overlaps the next one on one side, like a pinwheel. Stop your line where it meets the column, since the column is in front.

💡 **Tip:** Go around in one direction and always tuck the new petal under the one before it.

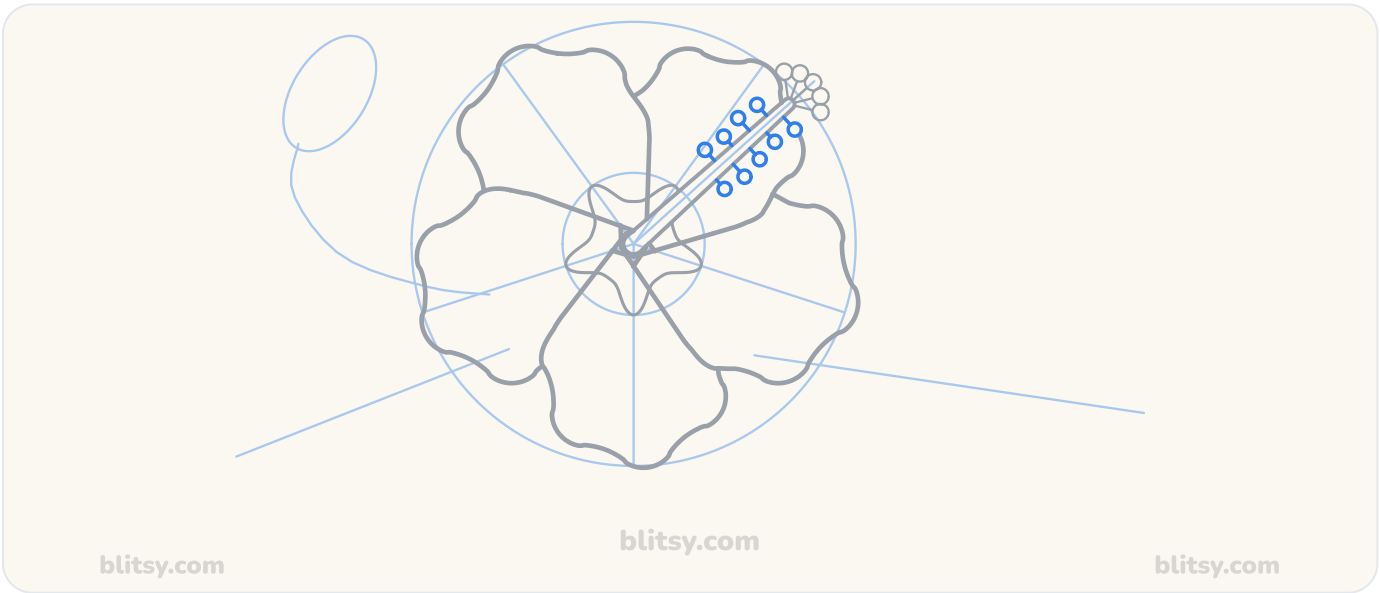
STEP 5 Shape the starry dark centre



Around the base of the column, draw a small five-pointed shape with soft, rounded points. Line each point up with a spoke so it runs a short way into the middle of a petal. This is the hibiscus eye, the darkest spot of the flower. Keep it inside the small guide circle, or it starts to look like a second flower.

💡 **Tip:** Rounded points look like real petal markings, while sharp ones turn the centre into a star sticker.

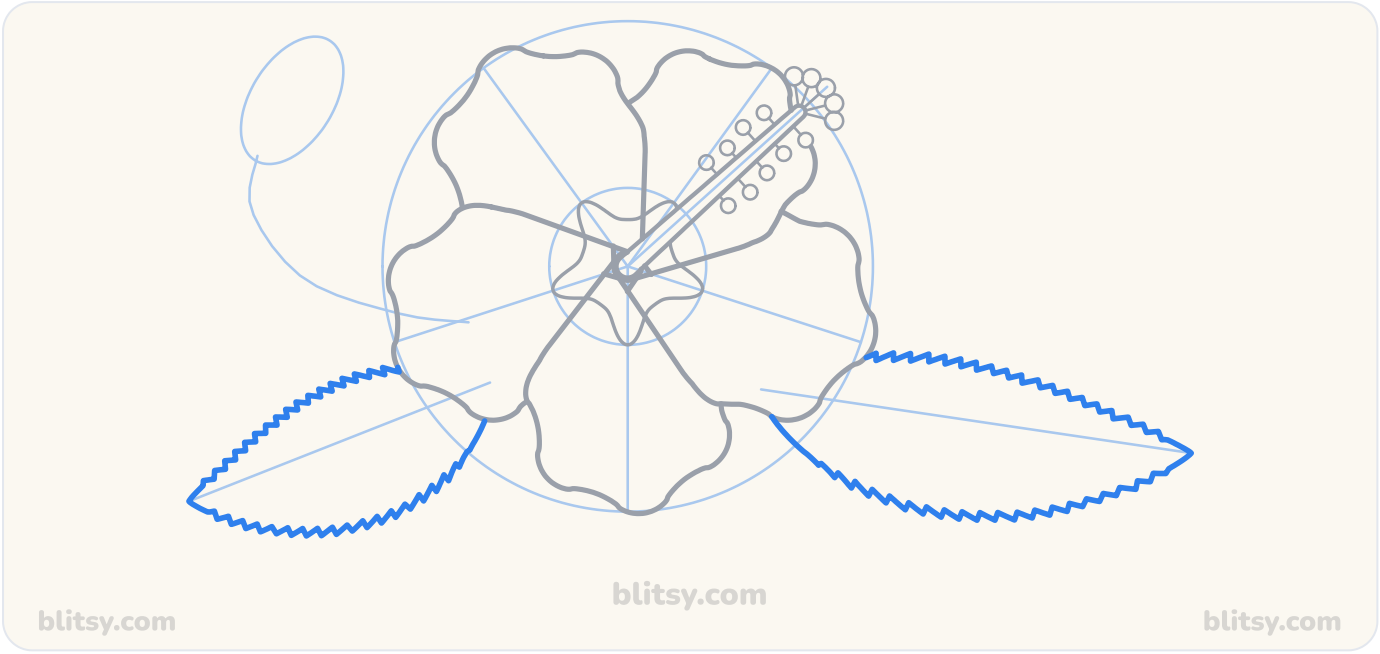
STEP 6 Add pollen dots on tiny stems



Along the top half of the column, draw little dots on both sides, each on a very short stem. Alternate them, one on the left, then one on the right, like leaves on a twig. About nine dots is plenty. On a real flower these are the pollen sacs, and they cluster near the tip, never down by the petals.

💡 **Tip:** Make every dot about the same size as a stigma pad so the column looks like one plant part.

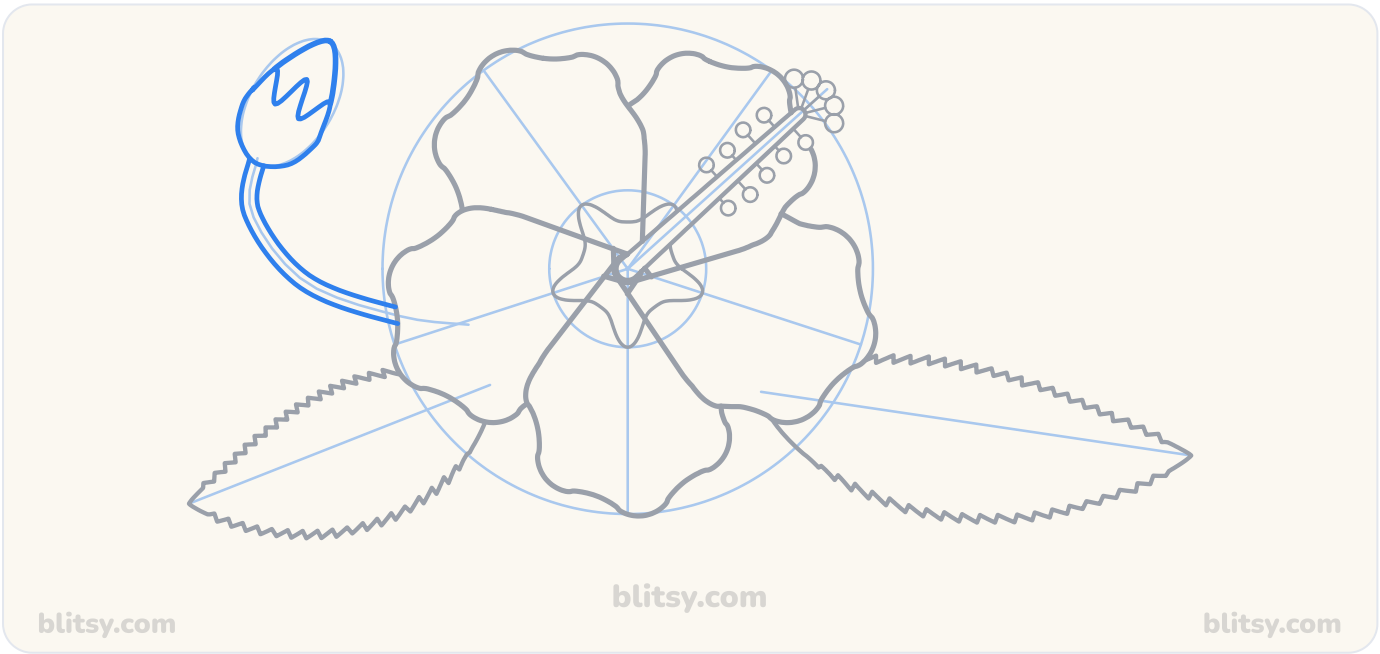
STEP 7 Draw two leaves with saw edges



Along each leaf line, draw a long oval leaf that ends in a sharp point. Hibiscus leaves have small teeth along the edge, so replace a smooth line with tiny zigzags, smaller toward the tip. Start each leaf right where it disappears behind the petals. Nothing needs to be drawn where a petal covers it.

💡 **Tip:** Small, even teeth look natural; big ones make the leaf look like holly.

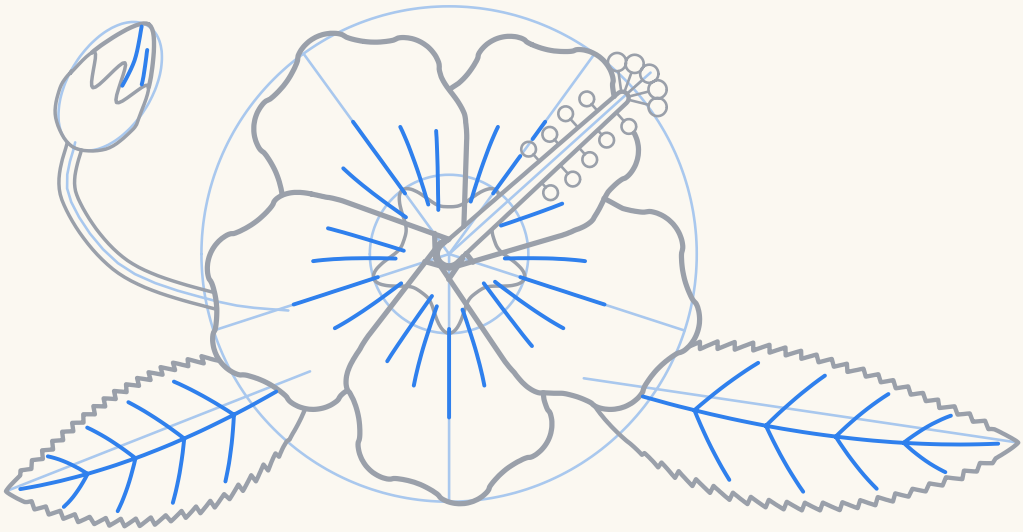
STEP 8 Draw a bud on a curved stem



Inside the oval at the top left, draw a teardrop pointing up and to the right. Over its lower half, draw a green cup with three pointy tips, the sepals that hold the closed petals. Then trace the curved guide on both sides to make a thin stem that slips behind the flower. A bud gives the picture a second point of interest, but small kids can leave it out.

💡 **Tip:** I keep the bud smaller than one petal so the open flower stays the star.

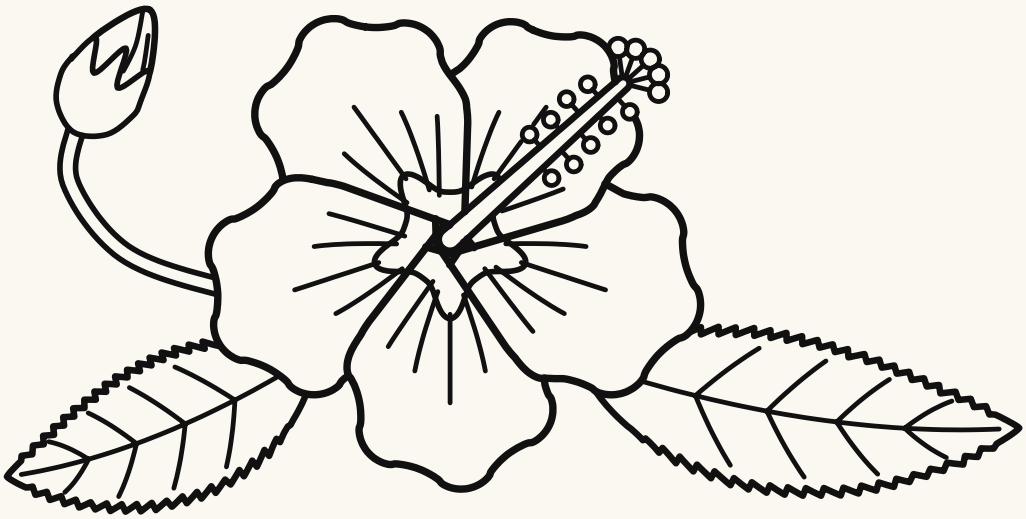
STEP 9 Add petal veins and leaf veins



On every petal, draw five thin lines fanning out from the dark centre. The middle line is the longest, and the outer ones stay shorter. Down each leaf, draw a gentle centre line with slanted side veins pointing toward the tip. Add two curved lines on the bud to show the petals wrapped inside it.

💡 **Tip:** Lift your pencil at the end of each vein so the lines fade out instead of stopping with a dot.

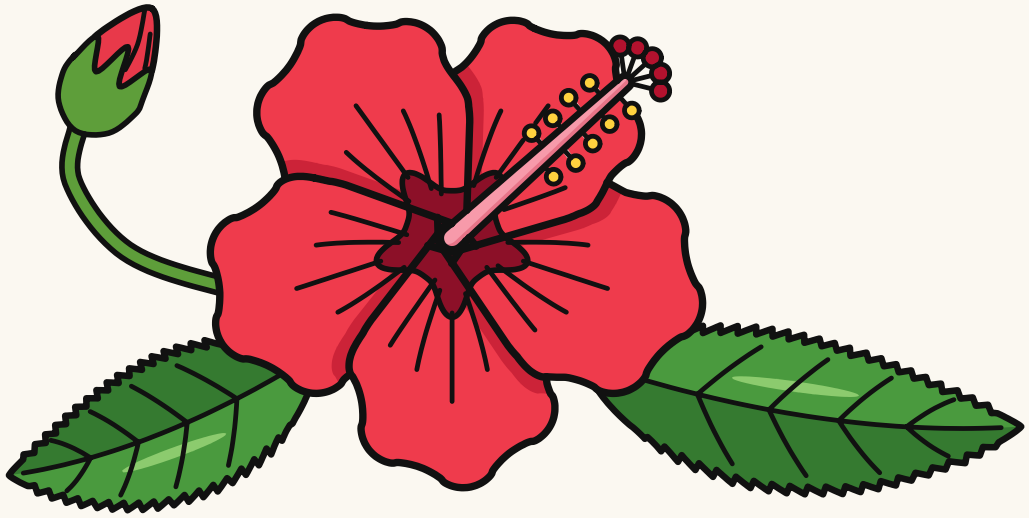
STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace over the keeper lines with your black pen. My order is column first, then petals, then the leaves, so my hand doesn't drag across fresh ink. I leave every circle and spoke alone. Wait a minute for the ink to dry before you erase the pencil.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the petal rims slowly; quick strokes flatten those little waves.

STEP 11 Color your hibiscus



Fill the petals and the bud with red, then press harder with dark red beside each spot where one petal tucks under another. Color the centre maroon. Use pink for the column, yellow for the pollen dots and dark red for the pads. Color the leaves green with one half of each leaf in a darker green for a glossy look.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a thin pale streak on each leaf uncolored; it reads as light bouncing off a shiny surface.