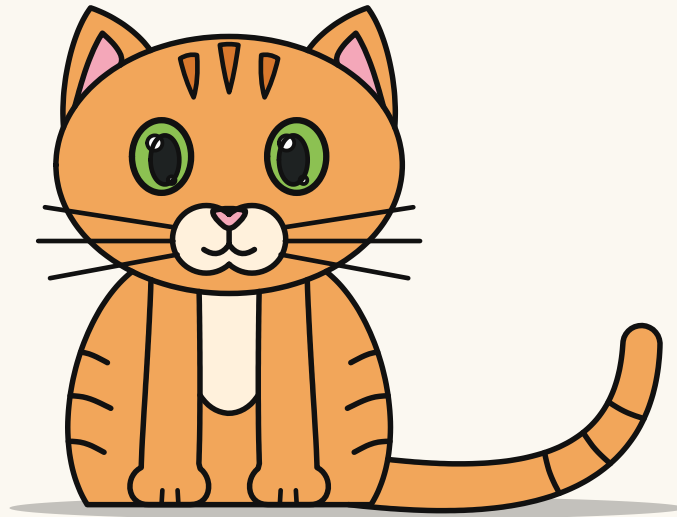


How to Draw a Kitten

11 easy steps for beginners



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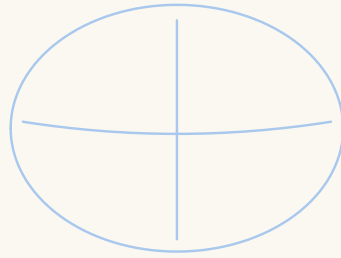
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- 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 big head oval

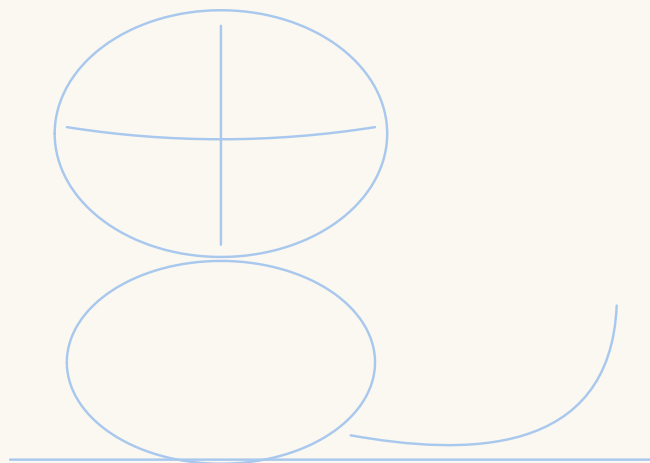
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Start with a light ground line near the bottom of the paper. Well above it, draw a wide oval for the head, a little wider than it is tall. Then split the oval with a vertical line down the middle and a gently curved line across, slightly above the center. Those two lines tell you where the eyes and nose go later.

 **Tip:** Hold the pencil farther back from the tip. You'll press lighter without trying.

STEP 2 Add the body oval and a tail line

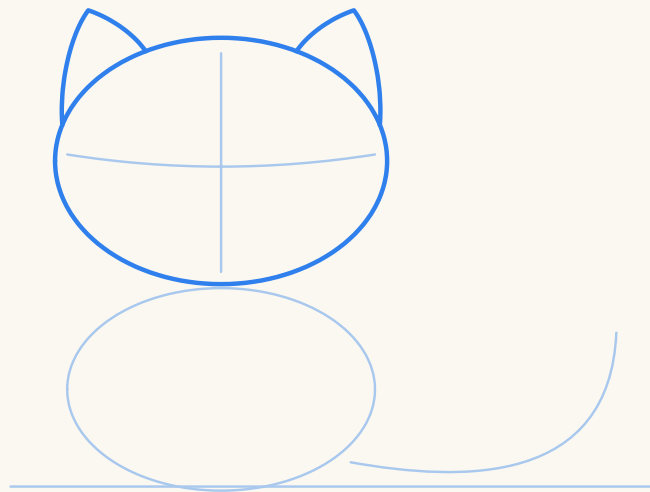
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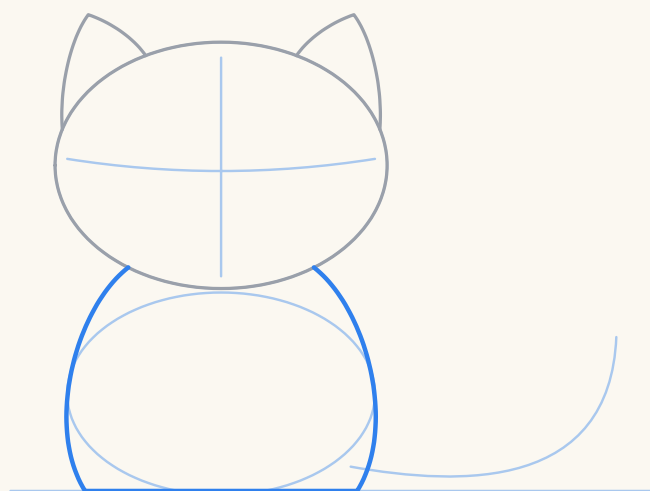
Under the head, draw a second oval for the body, about the same width as the head and resting on the ground line. It should tuck right up under the chin. Then add one curved line that runs along the ground to the right and sweeps upward at the end. That's where the tail will go.

 **Tip:** If the body oval comes out bigger than the head, shrink it. Kittens look younger with a large head.

STEP 3 Outline the head and pointy ears

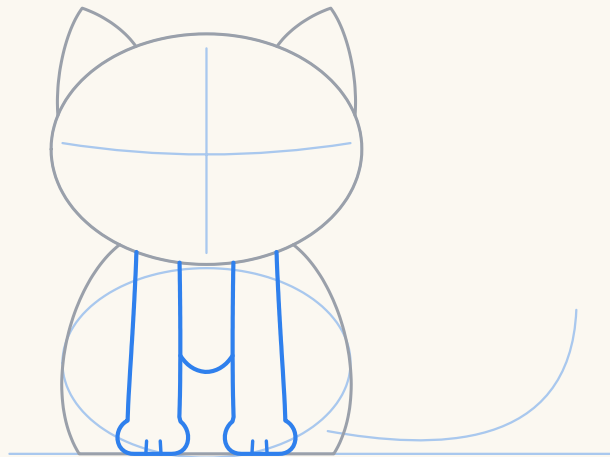
Trace firmly over the head oval. Now add two ears on the top corners, each one a tall triangle with slightly curved sides. I start every ear on the side of the head, go up to a point, and come back down onto the top of the head. The ears lean outward a little, which keeps the face friendly instead of alert.

 **Tip:** Make both ear tips sit at the same height. Uneven ears are the first thing people notice.

STEP 4 Draw the sitting body

From just under the cheeks, curve a line out and down on each side, following the body oval, until it reaches the ground. Join the two sides with a flat line along the ground. The shape ends up like a soft pear. Notice that the body lines begin at the head, not at the top of the guide oval, because the chin hides that part.

 **Tip:** Let the sides bulge out near the bottom. A sitting kitten spreads a bit, like a bean bag.

STEP 5 Add the front legs and round paws

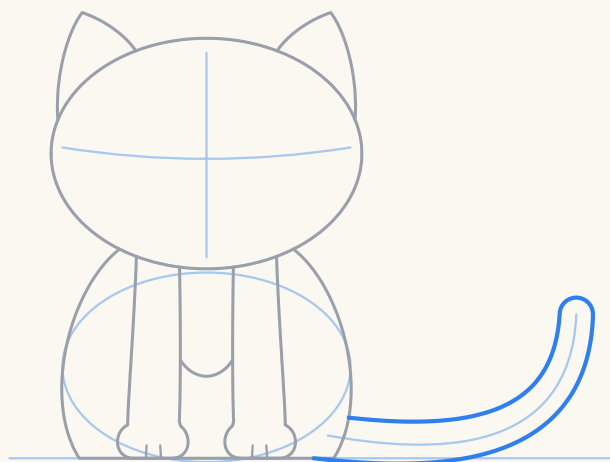
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Drop two long, narrow legs from under the chin straight down to the ground. Leave a gap between them about as wide as one leg. At the bottom, round each leg out into a small bean-shaped paw, then add two short toe lines on each paw. Between the legs, draw a U-shaped curve for a light chest patch.

 **Tip:** Keep the paws a little wider than the legs. Straight tubes all the way down look like table legs.

STEP 6 Shape the curly tail

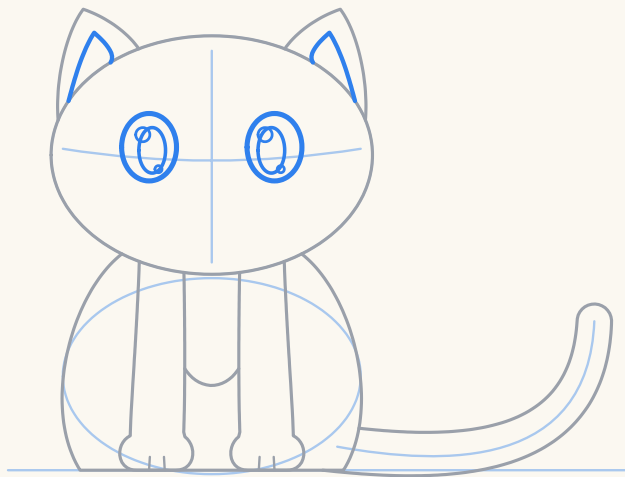
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Begin the tail behind the body on the right, following your tail guide. Draw the bottom edge along the ground and the top edge just above it, then curve both lines upward together. Narrow them slightly as they climb and close the end with a round tip. Don't draw any part of the tail inside the body, since it sits behind.

 **Tip:** Draw the outer edge of the curve first. It's the long, easy line, and the inner edge simply follows it.

STEP 7 Draw big eyes and the inner ears

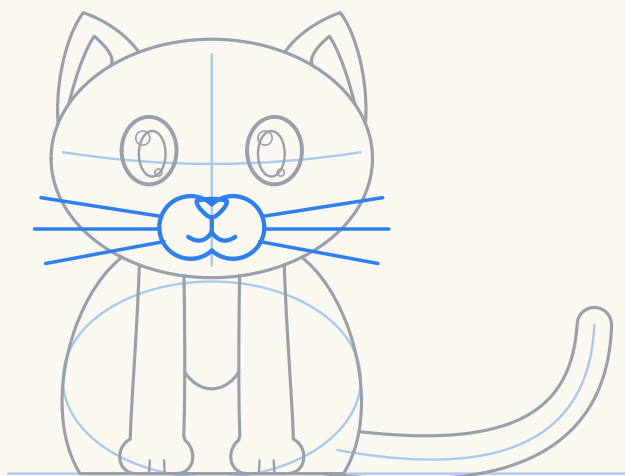
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Eyes make or break a kitten face. Place two tall ovals on the eye line, one on each side of the middle line, with roughly one eye width between them. Inside each, draw a tall oval pupil and two tiny circles for shine, one big and one small. Then add a smaller triangle inside each ear for the pink part.

 **Tip:** Put the shine circles in the same spot in both eyes, so the light seems to come from one side.

STEP 8 Add the muzzle, nose and whiskers

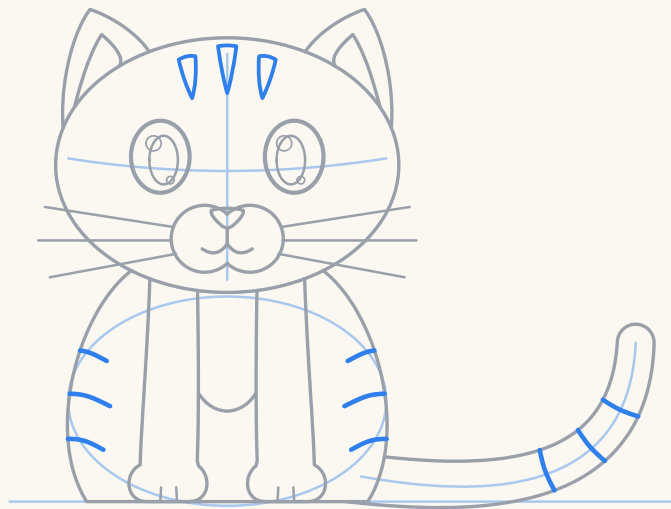
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Just below the eyes, on the middle line, draw two small overlapping circles. Together they make the puffy muzzle. Sit a little rounded triangle nose on top where the circles meet, then draw a short line down from it and two curves for the mouth. Finish with three long whiskers on each side, fanning out past the cheeks.

 **Tip:** Flick each whisker outward in one quick stroke. Slow whiskers wobble.

STEP 9 Sketch the tabby stripes

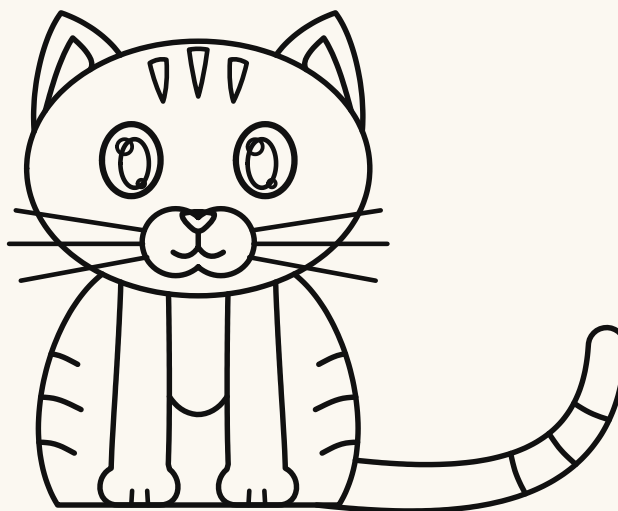
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Ginger kittens almost always have stripes, and a few go a long way. Draw three short, pointed marks on the forehead, the middle one a touch longer. Add three curved stripes on each side of the body, starting at the edge and stopping before the legs. Then put a few bands across the tail near the tip.

 **Tip:** Fewer stripes look neater than many. Stop at three per side.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides

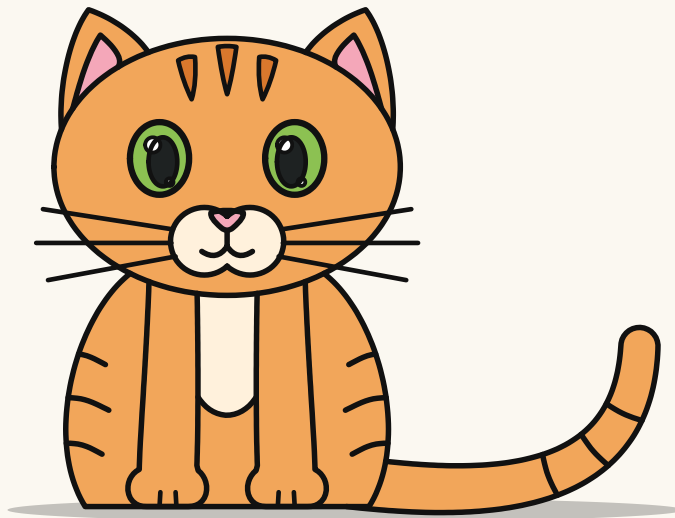
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Go over every keeper line with your black pen: the whole outline plus every face detail. My habit is to ink the face first while my hand is fresh, then the outline. Skip the ovals, the cross lines and the tail guide. Let the ink dry fully before you erase the pencil.

 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink the round shapes, so your hand always pulls the pen toward you.

STEP 11 Color your kitten

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Use orange for all the fur, including the ears and tail, and dark orange for the forehead stripes. The muzzle and chest patch are cream. Color the inner ears and nose pink, the eyes green and the pupils black, leaving the shine circles white. A soft gray shadow along the ground finishes it.



Tip: Color the fur in short strokes that follow the shape, and it starts to look soft.