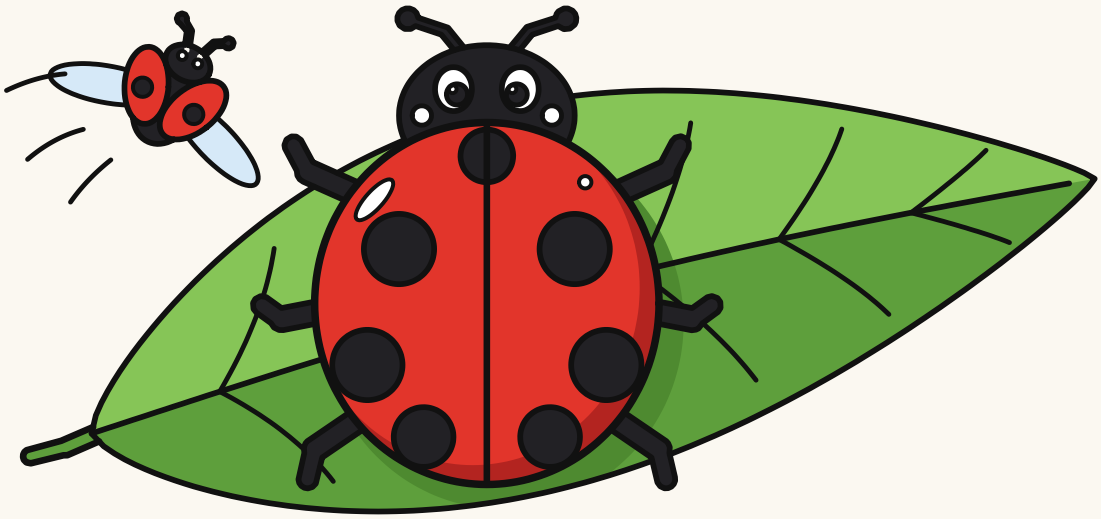
How to Draw a Ladybug

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

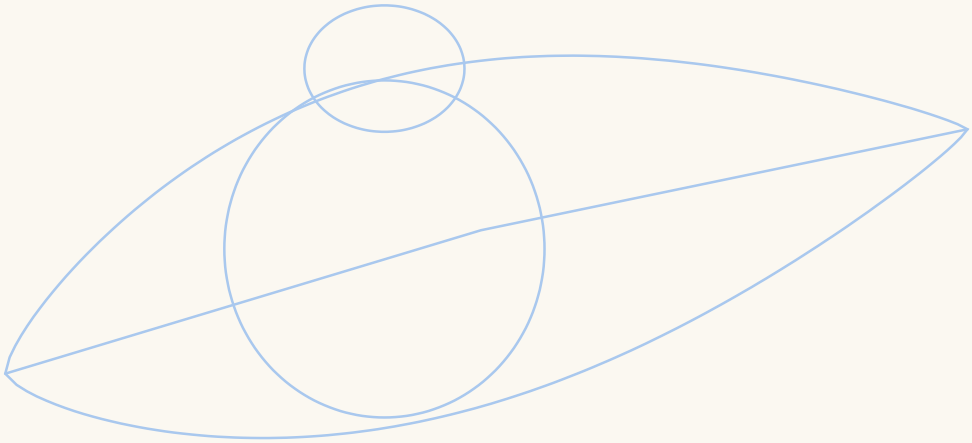
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Red and green crayons or pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

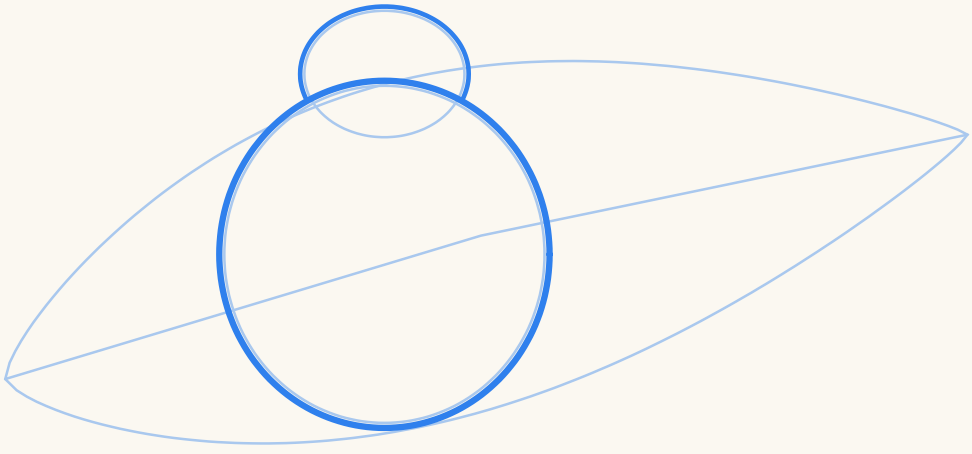
STEP 1 Sketch the leaf and body guides



Turn your paper sideways. Draw a long, slanted line that climbs from the lower left to the upper right, then wrap a pointed leaf shape around it. In the middle of the leaf, sketch a big circle for the body and a smaller flat oval on top of it for the head. Press so lightly that you can barely see these lines.

💡 **Tip:** If you can hear your pencil scratching, you're pressing too hard for a guide.

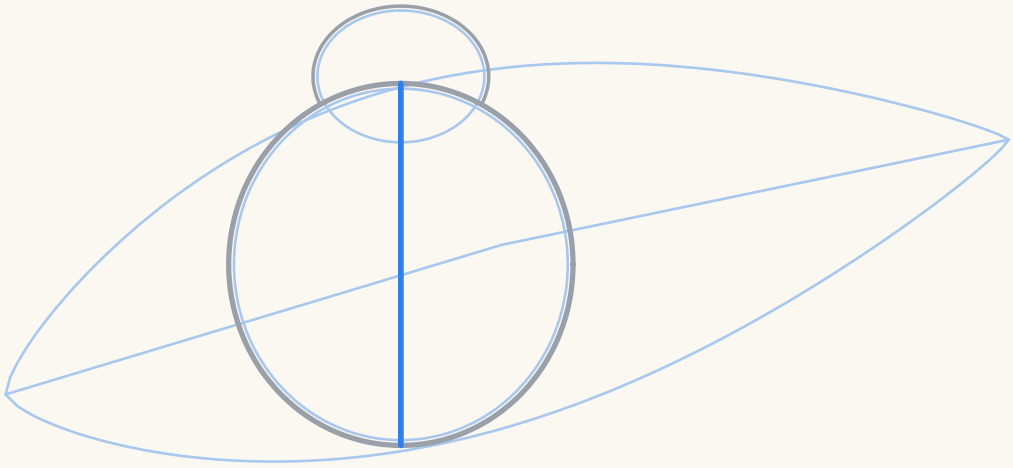
STEP 2 Draw the round dome and the head



Trace over the big circle with a steadier line. This is the dome of the ladybug's back, so keep it full and round, only slightly taller than it is wide. Next, outline the top part of the head oval. Stop where it meets the body, because the shell sits in front and hides the rest of the head.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the circle in two halves, left side then right side. Joining two arcs is easier than one big loop.

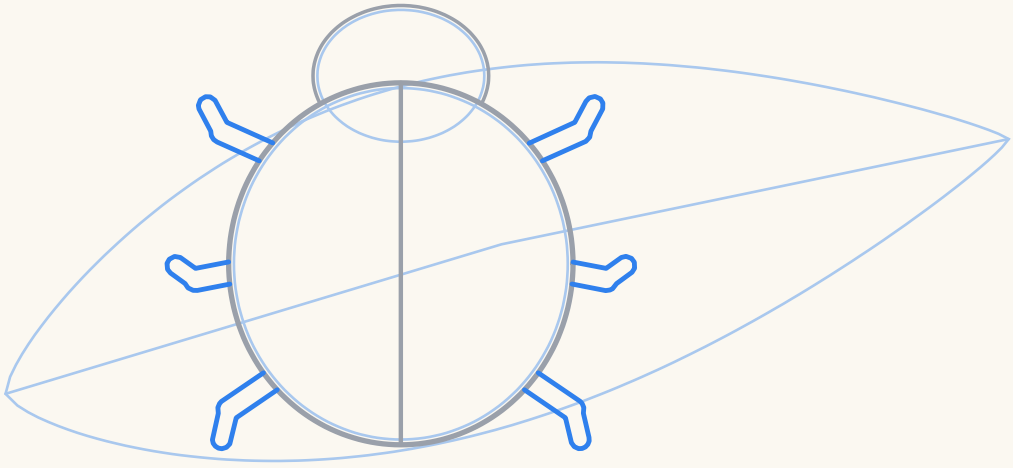
STEP 3 Split the wing covers



Draw one straight line from the top of the dome down to the bottom. That line is where the two hard wing covers meet. Keep it in the exact middle, since every spot later gets placed by looking at this line.

💡 **Tip:** Use the edge of a book or a ruler if your hand wobbles on long straight lines.

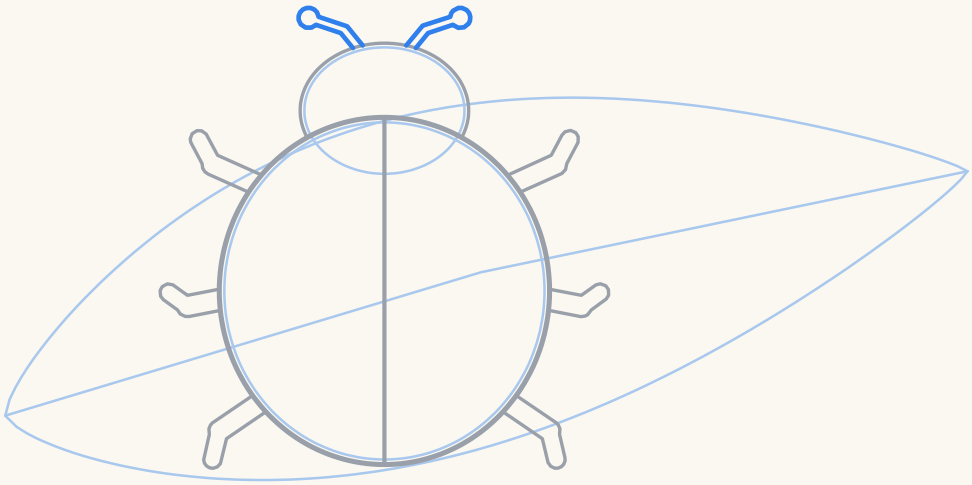
STEP 4 Add six short legs



Ladybugs keep most of their legs tucked under the shell, so we only show the ends. Draw three small bent legs on each side: the top pair points forward, the middle pair sticks straight out, and the bottom pair points back. Each one starts at the body's edge and has a single bend, like a tiny elbow.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the legs short and chunky. Long thin legs turn a ladybug into a spider.

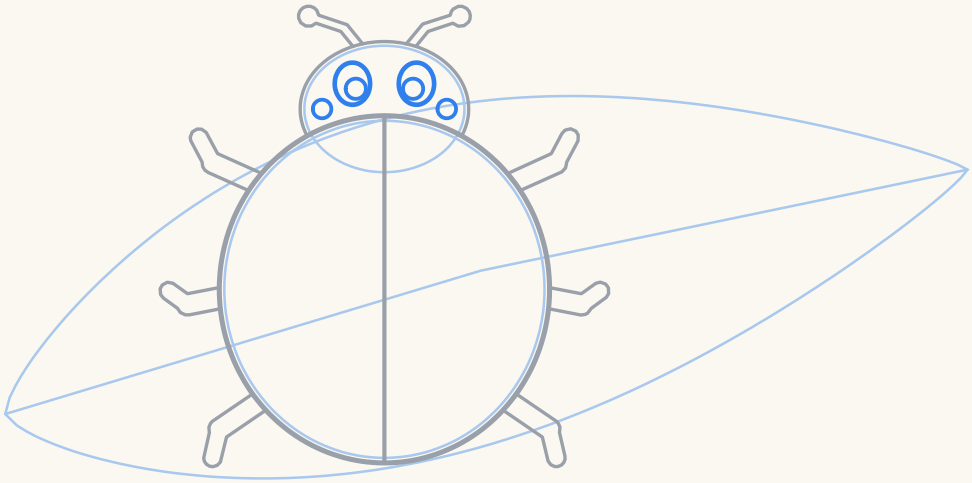
STEP 5 Draw antennae with round tips



From the top of the head, draw two thin antennae that lean outward and bend gently to the sides. Finish each with a small ball. I keep them shorter than the head is wide, since long ones start to look like a snail's eye stalks.

💡 **Tip:** Make both balls the same size. Your eye notices a lopsided pair right away.

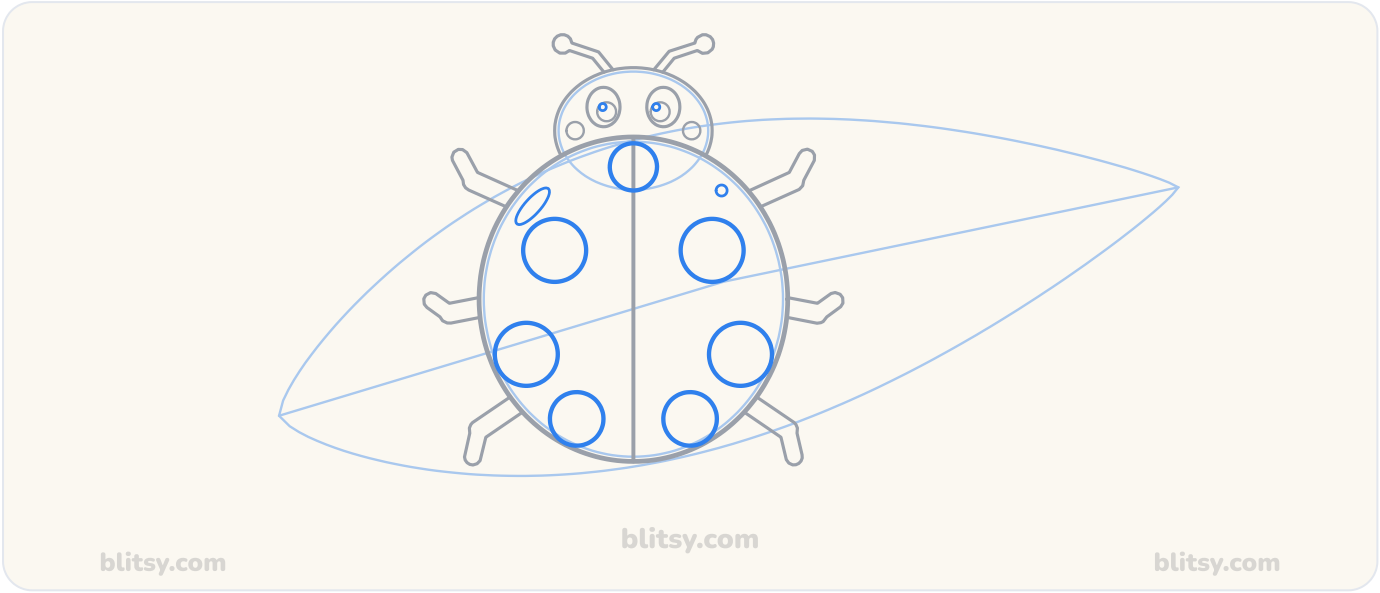
STEP 6 Give it big eyes and cheek dots



Inside the head, draw two tall ovals close to the middle for eyes. Add a round pupil in each one, set a little toward the bottom so the ladybug seems to look at you. Put a tiny circle inside each pupil for the shine. Near the outer edges of the head, draw two small circles. These become white cheek dots.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the shine circles empty when you color. That white speck is what makes the eyes look alive.

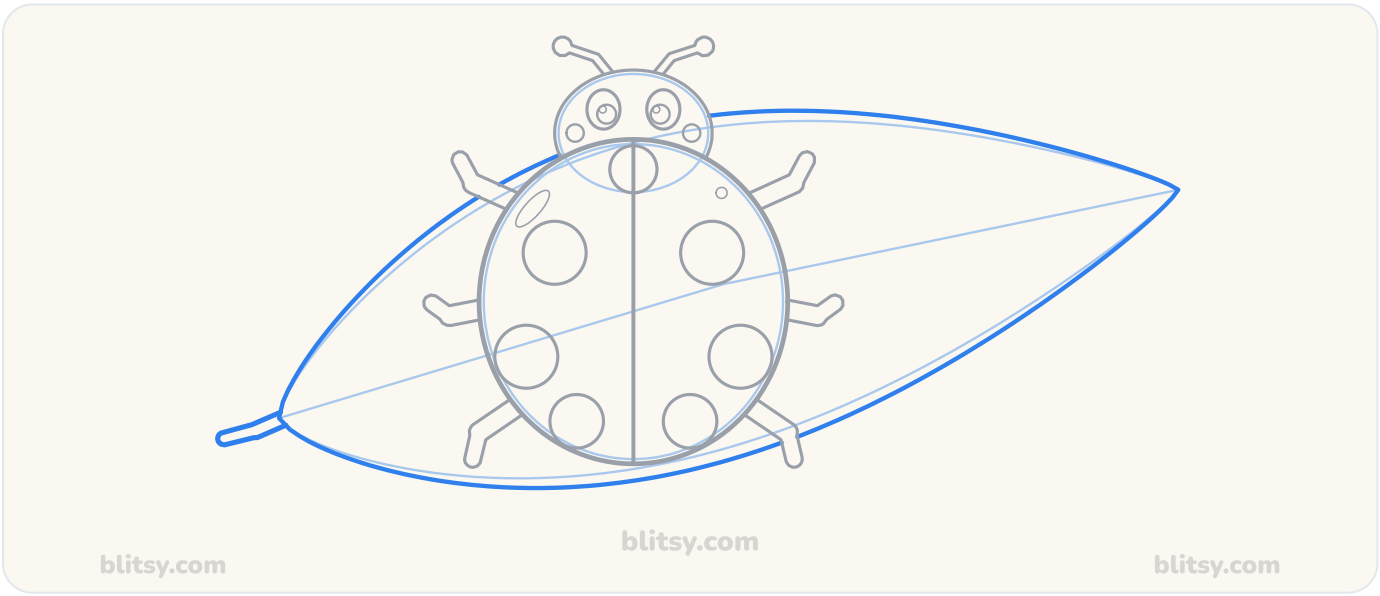
STEP 7 Place seven spots and a shine



Start with one spot right on the centre line, just below the head. Then add three spots on each side, working in pairs: the left one first, then its twin at the same height on the right. Make the bottom pair a bit smaller. Last, draw a slim slanted oval near the upper left edge of the shell and a dot on the other side.

💡 **Tip:** Look at the gap between each spot and the edge. Matching gaps on both sides keep the pattern even.

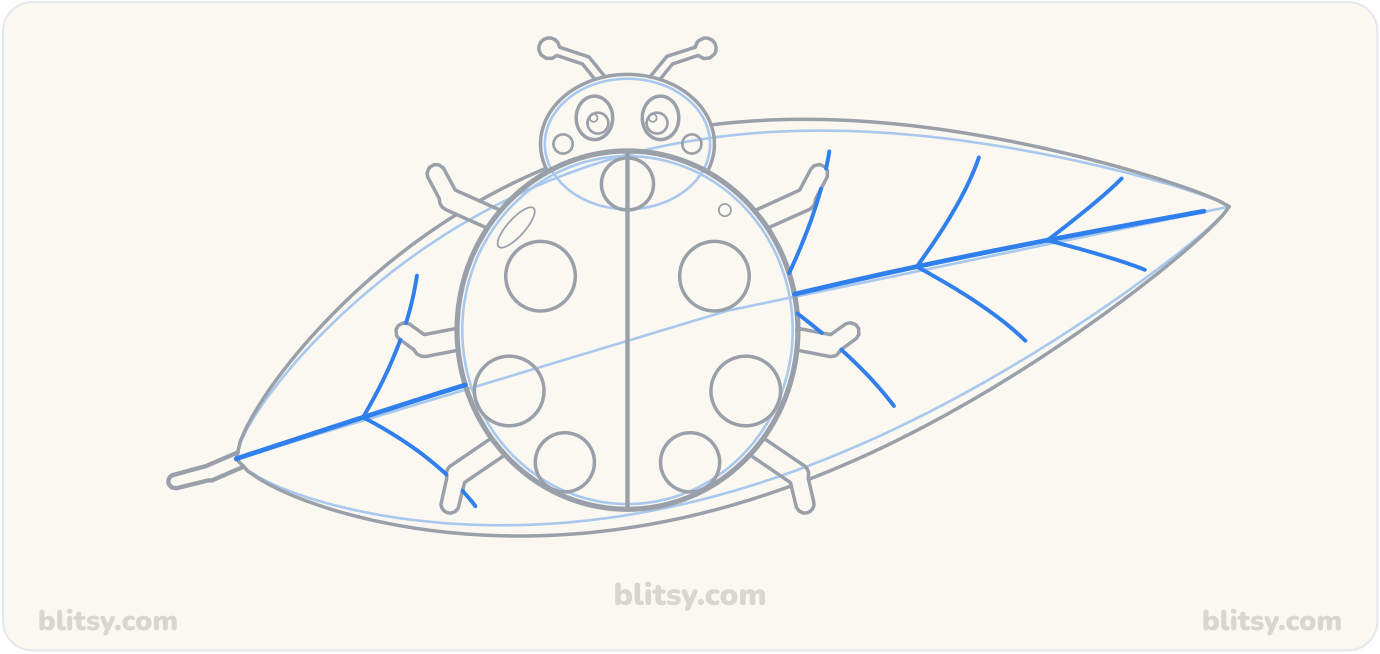
STEP 8 Draw the big leaf behind the bug



Now outline the leaf, following your guide shape. Most beginners draw the leaf first and then struggle to fit the bug on top. Doing it the other way around is simpler: wherever a leg or the body is in the way, just stop your line and start again on the other side. Add a short stem sticking out of the leaf's lower left end.

💡 **Tip:** Make the leaf tip sharp and the stem end soft. A leaf with two blunt ends looks like a canoe.

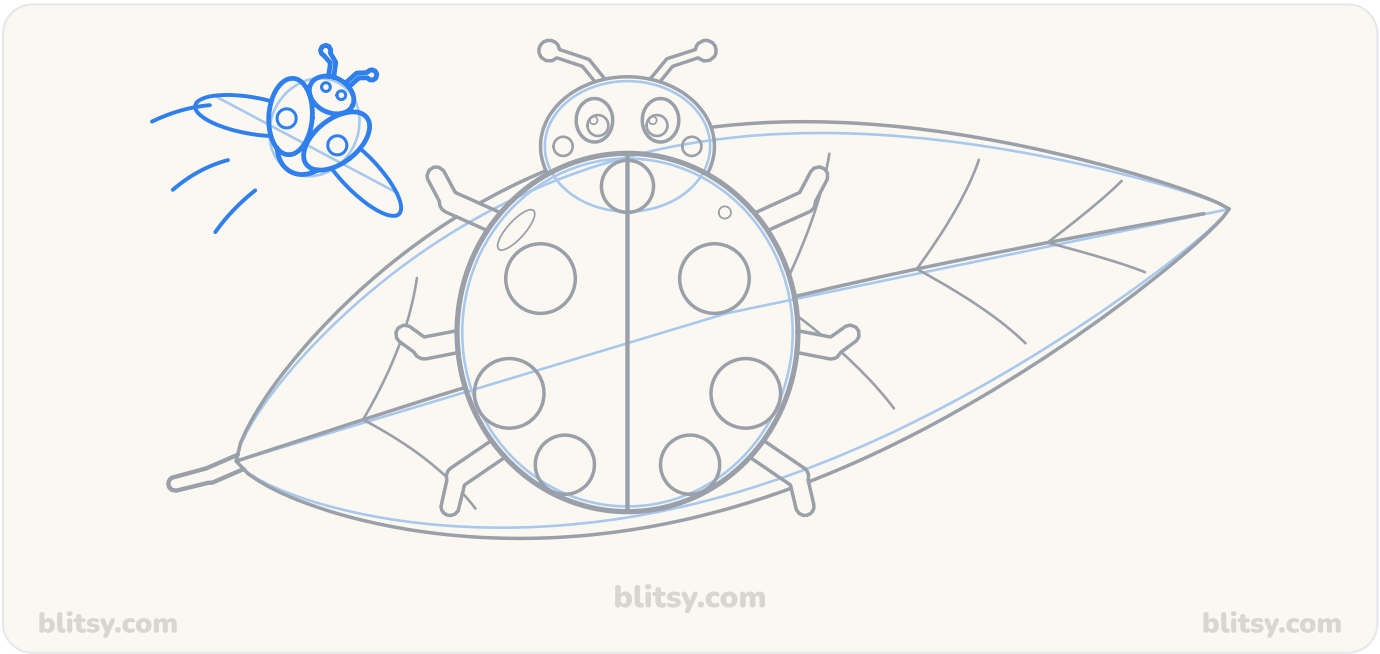
STEP 9 Add the leaf veins



Draw a vein down the middle of the leaf, using your guide line. From it, add curved side veins that sweep toward the tip, about six on each side. They don't need to touch the leaf's edge. Where a vein reaches the ladybug, lift the pencil and pick it up again on the far side.

💡 **Tip:** Curve every side vein toward the tip, never back toward the stem.

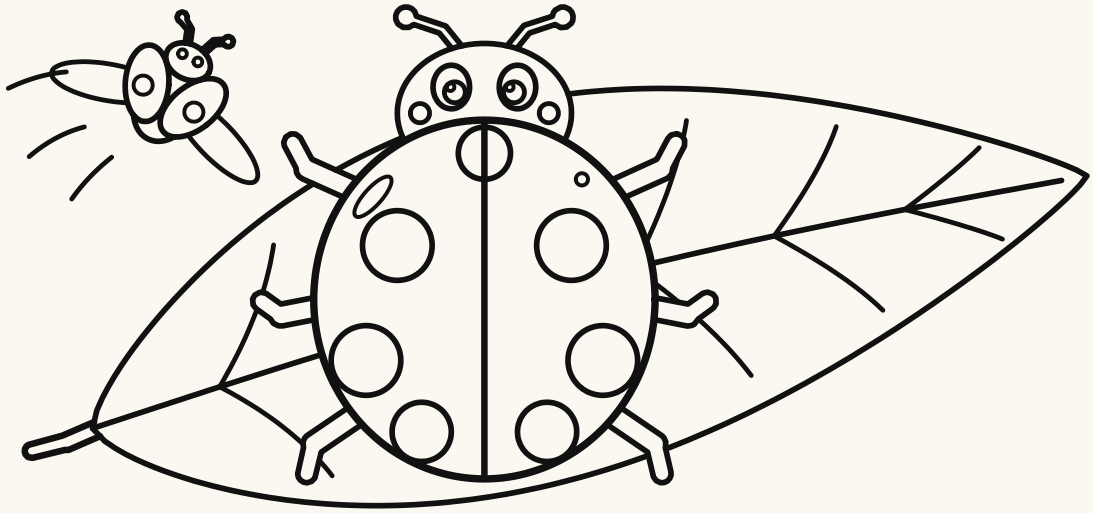
STEP 10 Draw a small flying ladybug



In the empty corner above the leaf, sketch a small circle tilted to the right. Around it, draw two long pale wings spreading out to the sides, and two red shell halves lifted up and apart, each with one spot. Add a little black head with two white eyes and two short antennae. A few curved lines behind it show that it's zooming along.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the small ladybug. A straight-up flyer looks like it's hanging on a string.

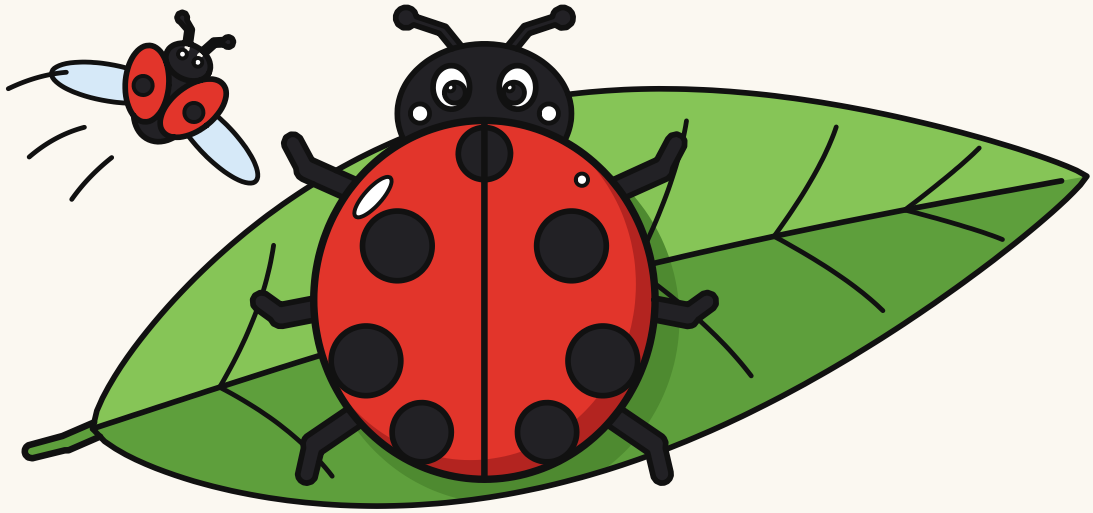
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every final line with your black marker, but skip the light guide shapes. Give the ink a minute to dry, then erase all the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the spots with a slow, steady turn of the wrist instead of several short strokes.

STEP 12 Color your ladybug



Color the shell bright red and add a darker red along its right and bottom edge, so the back looks rounded. Everything else on the bug is black, except the white eye shines, cheek dots and shell highlights. Use light green on the upper half of the leaf and dark green on the lower half, with a darker patch of green under the bug for a shadow. The flying wings get a pale blue.

💡 **Tip:** Color around the white shine marks first, then fill the rest of the red. It's easier than saving them later.