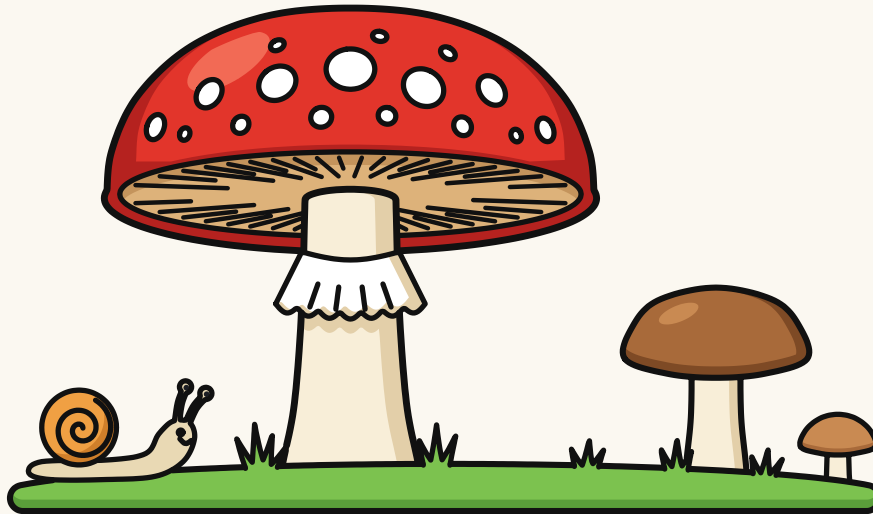


How to Draw a Mushroom

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

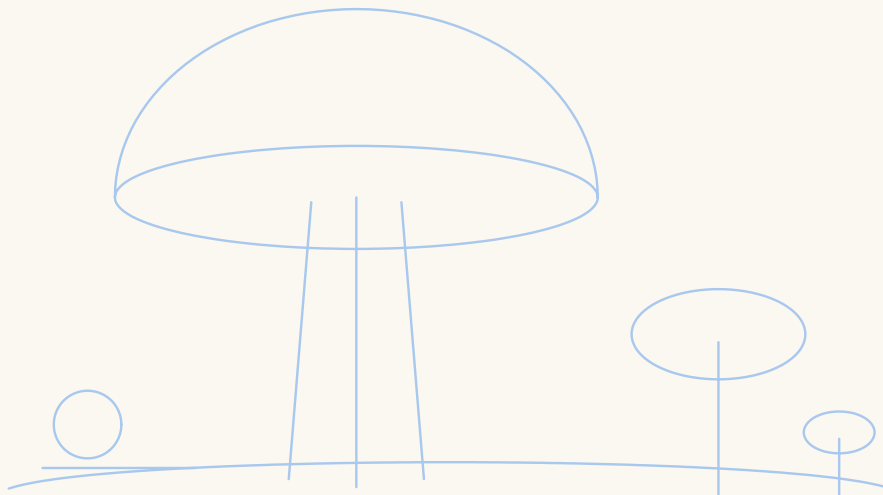
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Sketch the dome and the rim oval

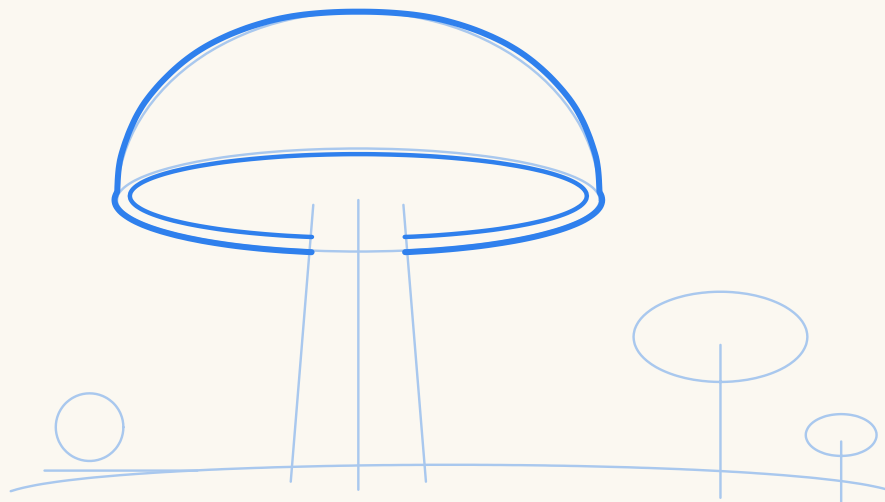
Start with a wide, flat oval in the upper middle of your page. This is the rim of the cap. On top of it, draw a half oval that is about as tall as the flat oval is half wide. Together they look like a bowl turned upside down.

 **Tip:** Draw the flat oval first. It decides how wide the whole cap will be.

STEP 2 Add guides for the stem and the ground

Drop a straight center line from the middle of the rim almost to the bottom of the page. Add two slanted lines beside it that spread a little apart as they go down, so the stem ends up wider at its base. Then draw a long, gently curved ground line, a small oval with a line for the brown mushroom on the right, an even smaller one beside it, and a circle on the left where the snail's shell will sit.

 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. They're only there to help you.

STEP 3 Draw the cap with a curled rim

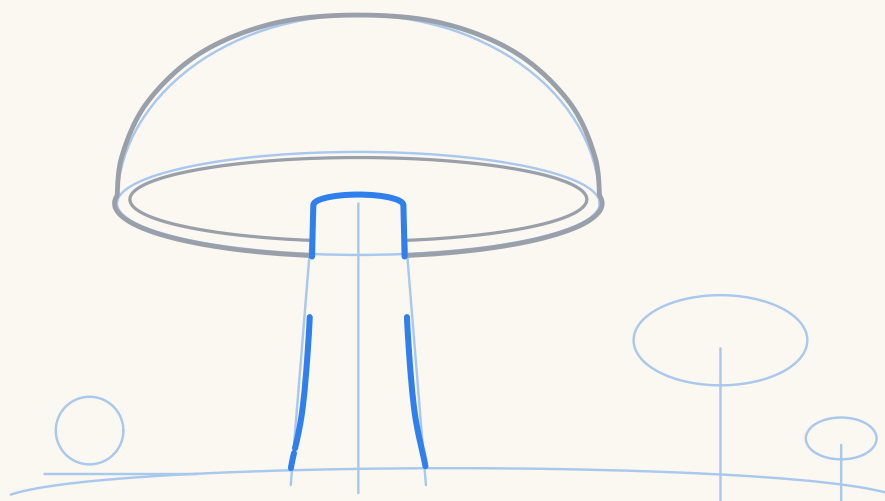
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Trace over the dome guide with one smooth line and let it wrap around the outside of the flat oval. Next, draw a second, slightly smaller oval just inside the rim. The thin band between the two ovals is the edge of the cap curling under. I leave a gap at the bottom of both ovals, right where the stem will cover them.

 **Tip:** Make the band a little thicker at the bottom than at the top.

STEP 4 Draw a stem that widens at the bottom

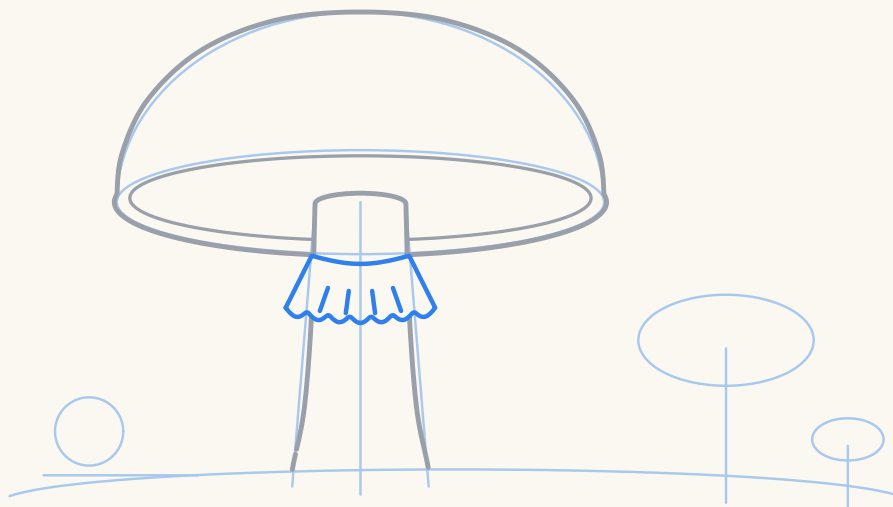
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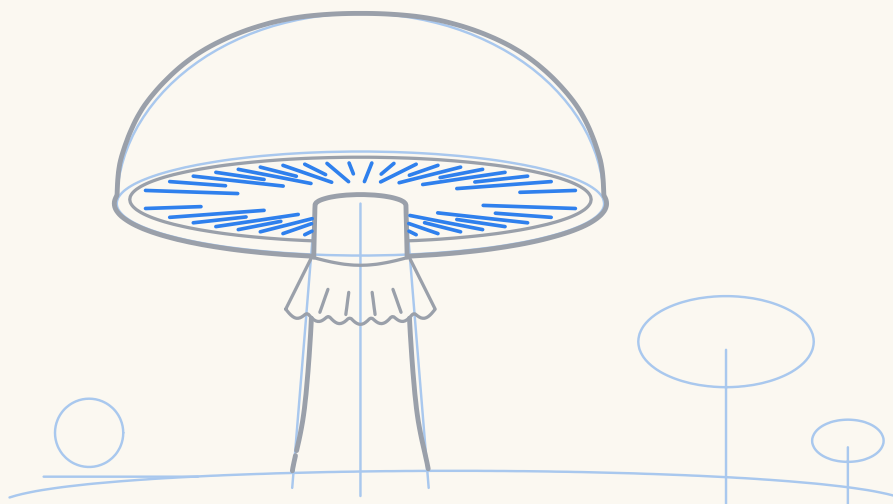
Begin at the underside with a short, rounded curve for the top of the stem, a bit narrower than a quarter of the cap's width. Then pull both sides down along your slanted guides, letting them flare out near the ground. Skip a short stretch just below the cap, because the ring goes there next.

 **Tip:** A stem that's too thin makes the cap look heavy. Keep it sturdy.

STEP 5 Hang a frilly ring under the cap

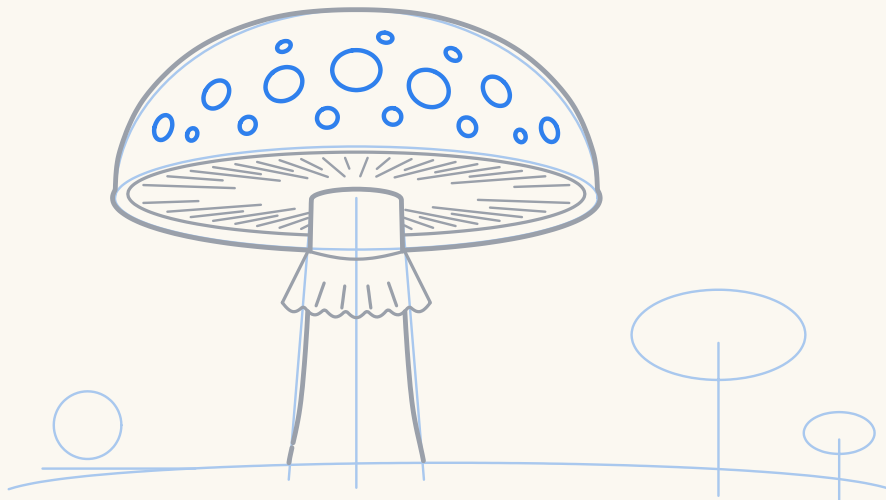
Just below the underside, draw a curved line across the stem. From each end, slant a line down and outward, like a small skirt. Join them at the bottom with a wavy edge of little bumps. Four short lines inside show the folds.

 **Tip:** Keep the bumps on the lower edge small and even, like a pie crust.

STEP 6 Fill the underside with gills

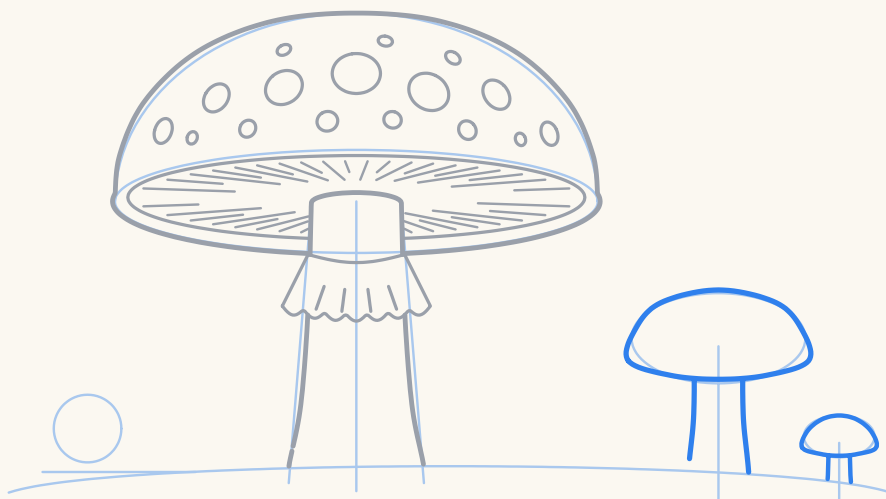
Gills are thin lines that fan out from the stem to the rim, like the spokes of a wheel. Draw a long one, then a shorter one, and keep switching all the way around. At the far left and right of the oval they run almost flat, so space those ones a little wider. Don't draw any gills behind the stem.

 **Tip:** Stop each gill a little before the rim instead of crashing into it.

STEP 7 Wrap the spots around the dome

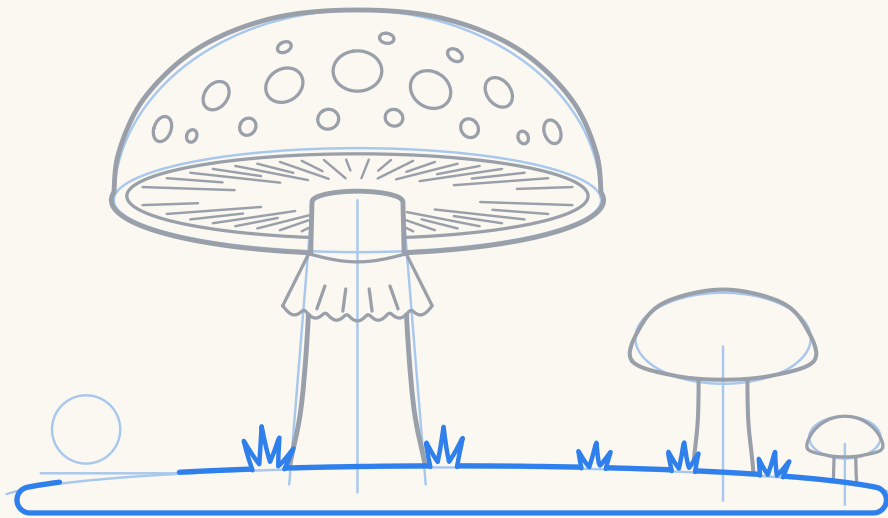
This is the step that makes the cap look round. Spots in the middle of the dome are round circles, and the bigger ones go there. As you move toward the edges, draw them smaller and squeeze them into thin ovals, as if they're bending away from you around the curve. Mix sizes so they don't form rows.

 **Tip:** Keep every spot off the outline. A spot touching the edge looks like a bite.

STEP 8 Add two little brown mushrooms

On the right, draw a rounded bun shape for the smaller mushroom's cap, with a softly curved bottom edge. Give it a short, straight stem. Next to it, draw a tiny version about half its size. These two sit lower than our eyes, so we see the tops of their caps, not the gills.

 **Tip:** Vary the heights. Three mushrooms of the same size look like a fence.

STEP 9 Draw the grassy mound and tufts

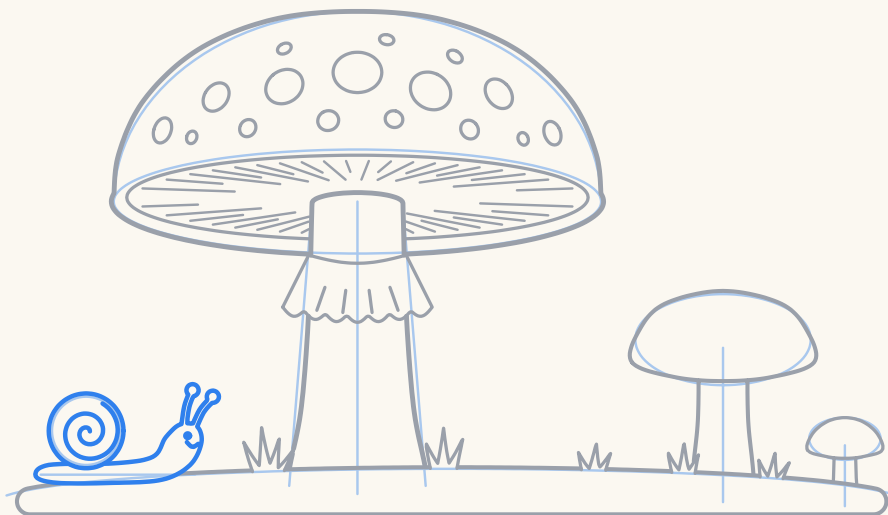
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Follow your ground guide with a gentle hump that rises a little under the big toadstool, then round off both ends and close it with a flat line underneath. Now add small tufts of pointy grass blades where each stem meets the ground. They hide the stem bottoms nicely.

 **Tip:** Make each tuft with three or four blades of different lengths.

STEP 10 Draw a snail friend

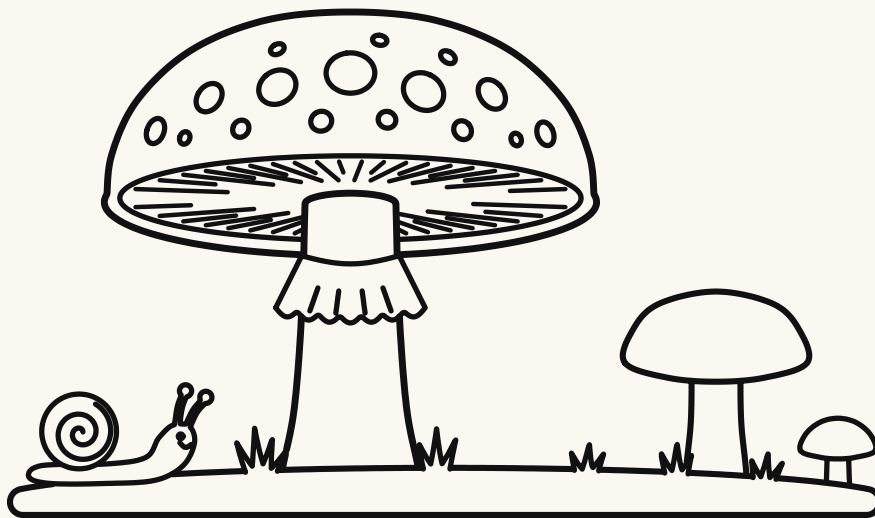
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Turn the circle guide into the shell and draw a spiral inside it, starting near the outer edge and curling toward the middle. Under the shell, draw a long soft body that lifts into a head on the right. Two thin eye stalks with round tips, a dot for the eye and a tiny smile finish it off.

 **Tip:** Spin the paper as you draw the spiral. Your hand will thank you.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

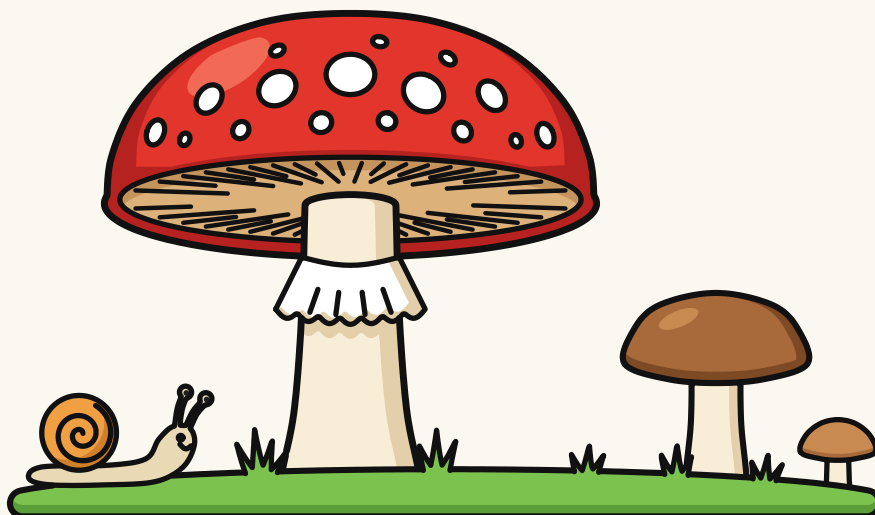
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Go over every line you want to keep with the black pen. I ink the big toadstool first, since it's the main subject, then the small mushrooms, the ground and the snail. When the ink is fully dry, erase all the guide lines.

 **Tip:** Ink the gills with quick, light flicks so they stay thin.

STEP 12 Color the toadstools

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Color the cap bright red and add dark red along the bottom of the dome and on the curled rim. Leave the spots and the ring white. Make the gills tan and the stems cream with a beige stripe on the right; the small caps are brown. Finish with green grass and an orange shell.

 **Tip:** Leave a small lighter patch on the top left of the cap for a shine.