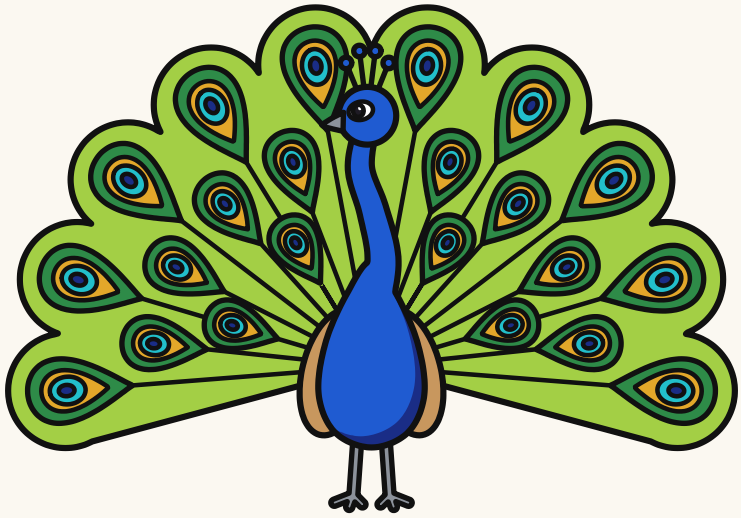
How to Draw a Peacock

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Blue, green and gold 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 →

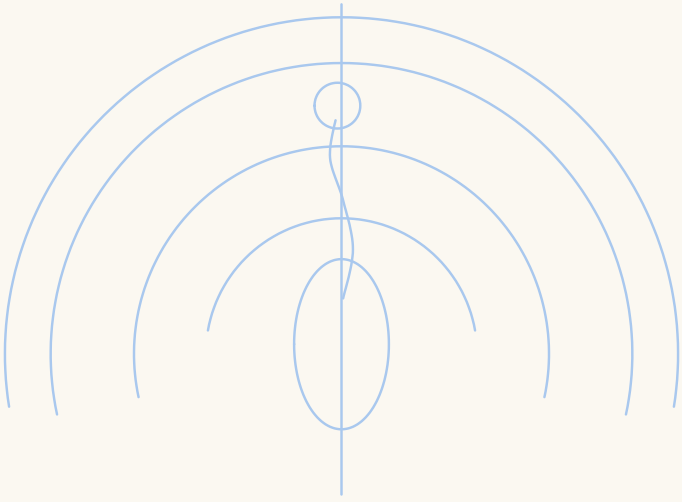
STEP 1 Sketch the guide shapes



Start near the top middle of your page with a small circle for the head. Far below it, draw a tall oval for the body, then join the two with a gentle S-shaped line for the neck. Leave plenty of room on both sides, because the tail fan will spread almost to the edges of the paper.

💡 **Tip:** Lay your pencil almost flat and let it glide. Guides should be barely visible.

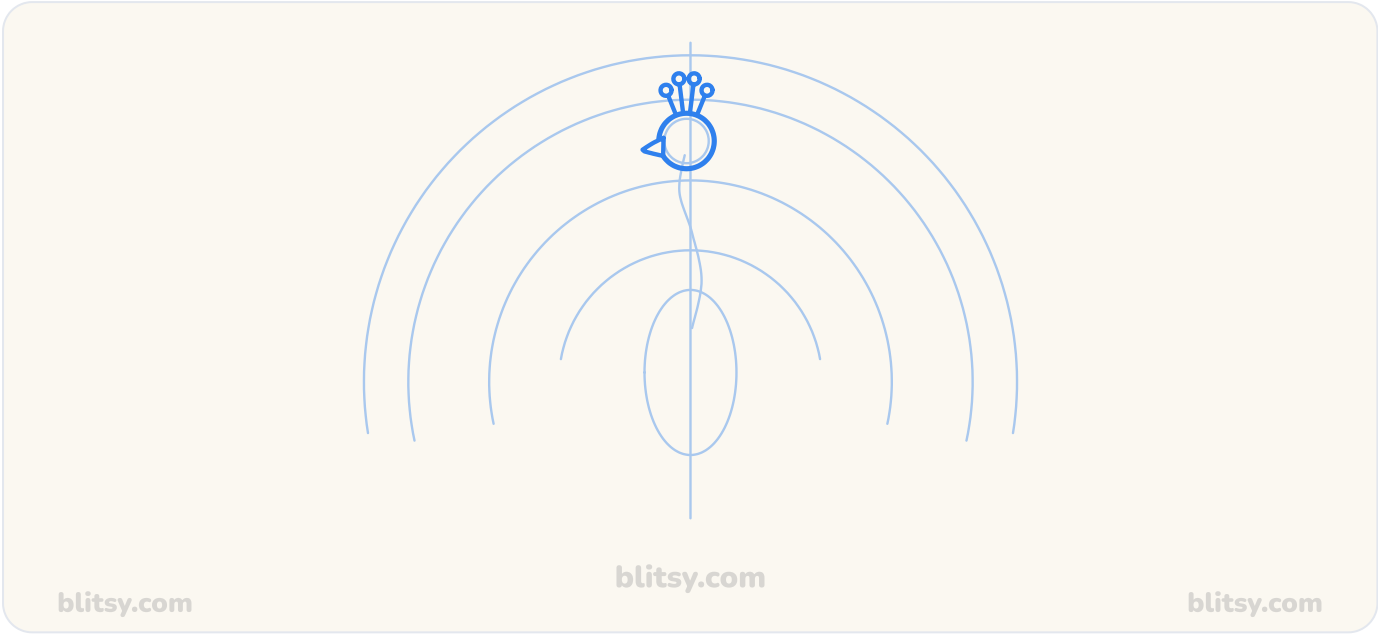
STEP 2 Add the half-circle fan guides



Draw a straight line down the center. Then sketch one big half circle around the bird, with the oval near its bottom middle, and two smaller half circles inside it. These three arcs are the rows where your eye feathers will sit. I take my time making the arcs even, because a lopsided fan is the first thing anyone notices.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the page upside down to check the arcs. Uneven sides jump out right away.

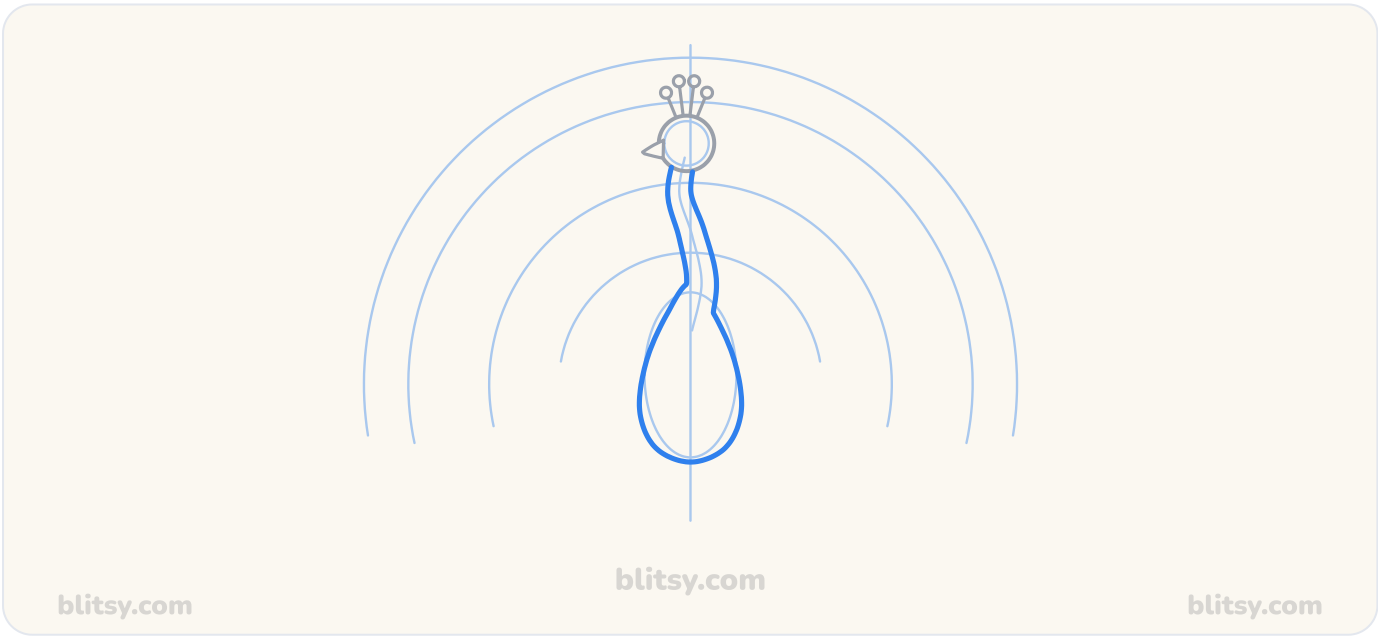
STEP 3 Draw the head, the beak and the crest



Go over the head circle with a firmer line. On its left side, add a short pointed beak, so the bird looks a little to one side. On top, draw four thin stalks that fan out slightly, each ending in a tiny circle. That crest says peacock at a glance, so keep it small.

💡 **Tip:** Make the two middle crest stalks a bit longer than the outer two. The crest looks like a little fan.

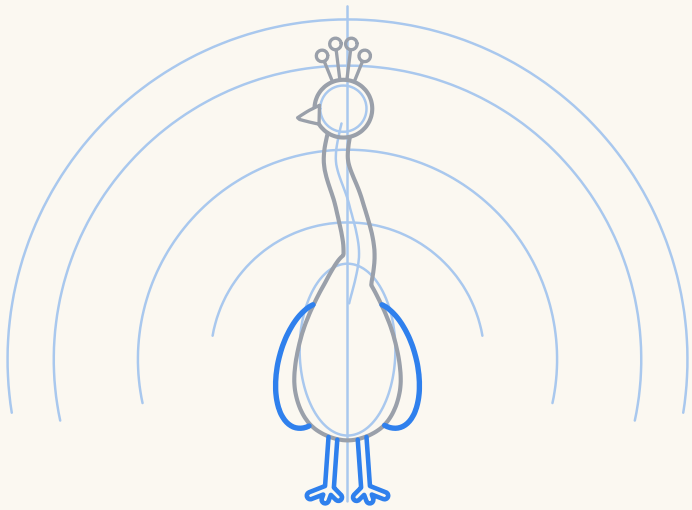
STEP 4 Shape the S-curved neck and the body



Follow the S-guide down with two lines, slim near the head and a little wider near the body. Let the neck flow straight into a teardrop body: narrow at the top and full at the bottom. Peacocks have long necks, and a thick or short one makes the bird look like a chicken in fancy dress.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the left neck line first, then the right one, keeping the gap between them almost the same all the way.

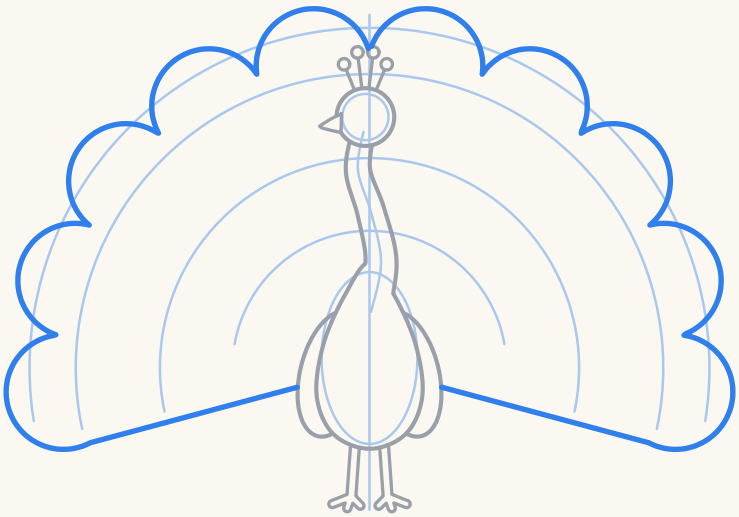
STEP 5 Add the folded wings and thin legs



On each side of the body, draw a long rounded wing that peeks out from behind it. Only a slim edge shows, so don't make them wide. Below the body, add two thin legs going straight down with three small toes on each foot. Skinny legs keep such a big bird looking graceful.

💡 **Tip:** Stop each wing line where it touches the body instead of drawing it across.

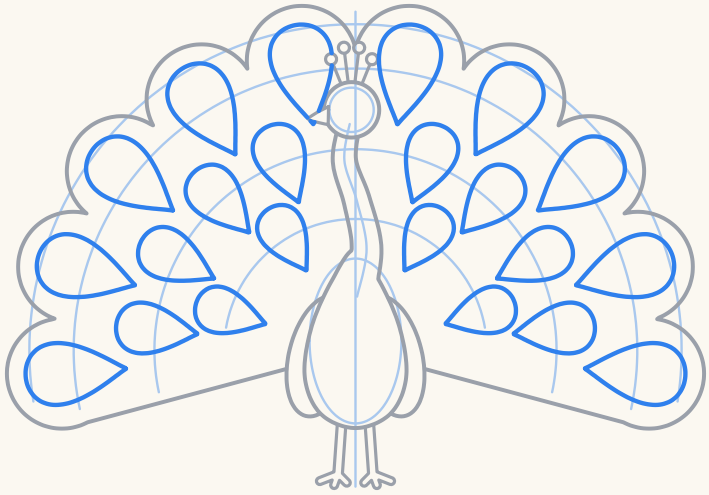
STEP 6 Draw the scalloped edge of the tail fan



Now trace around the big outer guide with a row of round bumps, ten in all, like the edge of a flower or a cloud. Make the bumps the same size and let the guide arc run through their middles. At the bottom on each side, finish the fan with a straight line slanting back to the wing.

💡 **Tip:** Mark the top of each bump with a dot along the arc first, so you can space them evenly.

STEP 7 Draw rows of eye feathers



Inside each scallop, draw a teardrop with its round end toward the edge and its point aimed at the body. That's the outer row. Add a second row of slightly smaller teardrops on the middle arc, placed in the gaps between the outer ones, and then four small ones on the inner arc. Staggering the rows like bricks is what makes the fan look full instead of lined up like a grid.

💡 **Tip:** Every teardrop's point should aim toward the center of the body, like spokes on a wheel.

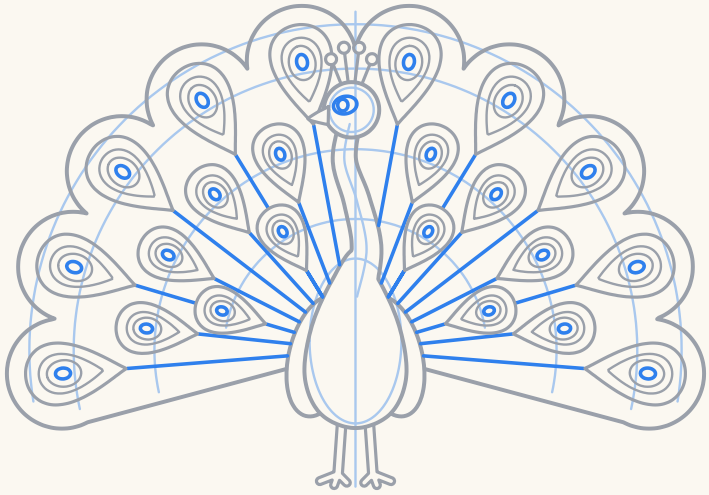
STEP 8 Draw the rings inside each eye



Inside every teardrop, draw a smaller teardrop, then a small oval inside that one. Leave a visible gap between each ring so there's space to color them later. This is the slowest step. I do the whole outer row first, then the middle row, so I don't lose track.

💡 **Tip:** Rest the side of your hand on a scrap of paper so it doesn't smudge the rings you already drew.

STEP 9 Add the eye, the spot centers and the feather shafts



Give the peacock a small dark eye inside a white almond-shaped patch, which is the pale face marking real peacocks have. Then put a tiny oval in the middle of every eyespot. Last, draw a thin straight line from each feather point back toward the body. These shafts show that every eyespot sits at the end of its own long feather.

💡 **Tip:** Use a ruler for the shafts if your hand wobbles. Aim each one at the middle of the body.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace all the lines you want to keep with your black pen, but skip the arcs, the center line and the oval. The rings need a light, steady hand, so take short breaks if your fingers get tired. Wait until the ink is fully dry, then erase every pencil mark.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the bird first and the fan after. If you smudge something, it's easier to fix on the plain fan.

STEP 11 Color your peacock



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Paint the whole bird a strong royal blue, and add darker blue along the lower right of the body for shading. The wings are tan, the legs and beak gray. In the tail, color the fan light green and each teardrop a deeper green. Then work inward: gold ring, turquoise oval and a dark blue center.

💡 **Tip:** Color all the gold rings in one go, then all the turquoise. Switching pencils less keeps the eyespots matching.