How to Draw a Snowman

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

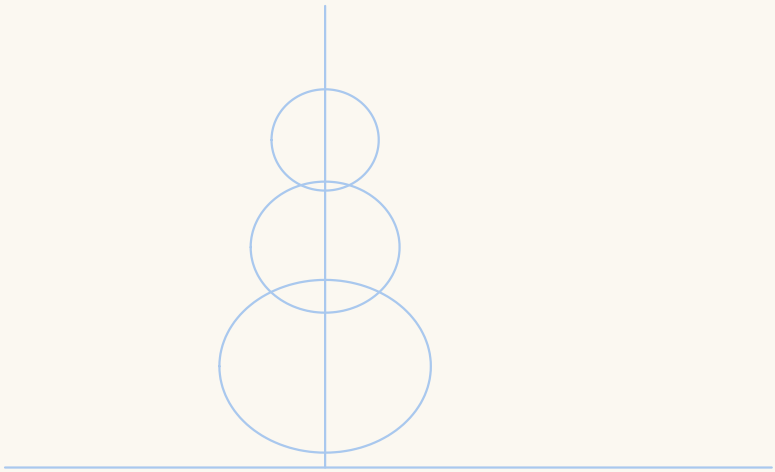
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black pen
- Colored pencils
- White paper

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 →

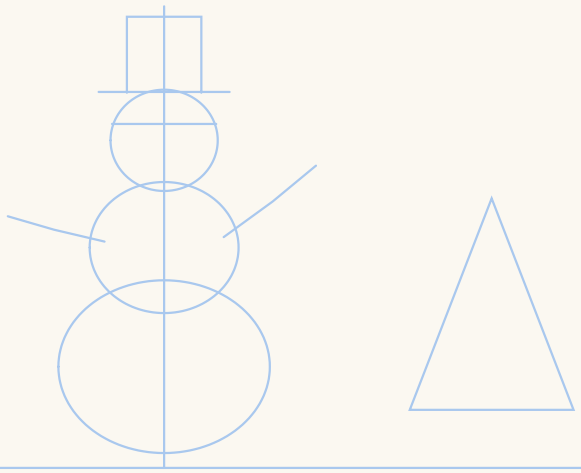
STEP 1 Stack three guide circles



Start low on the page with a long ground line, then draw a straight line up through the middle. Stack three circles along it: a small head, a medium body and the biggest ball at the bottom. Let each one overlap the one below a little. I make every ball clearly bigger than the one above, because equal sizes look like a stack of coins.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each circle in two halves, left then right, and check that both sides bulge the same amount.

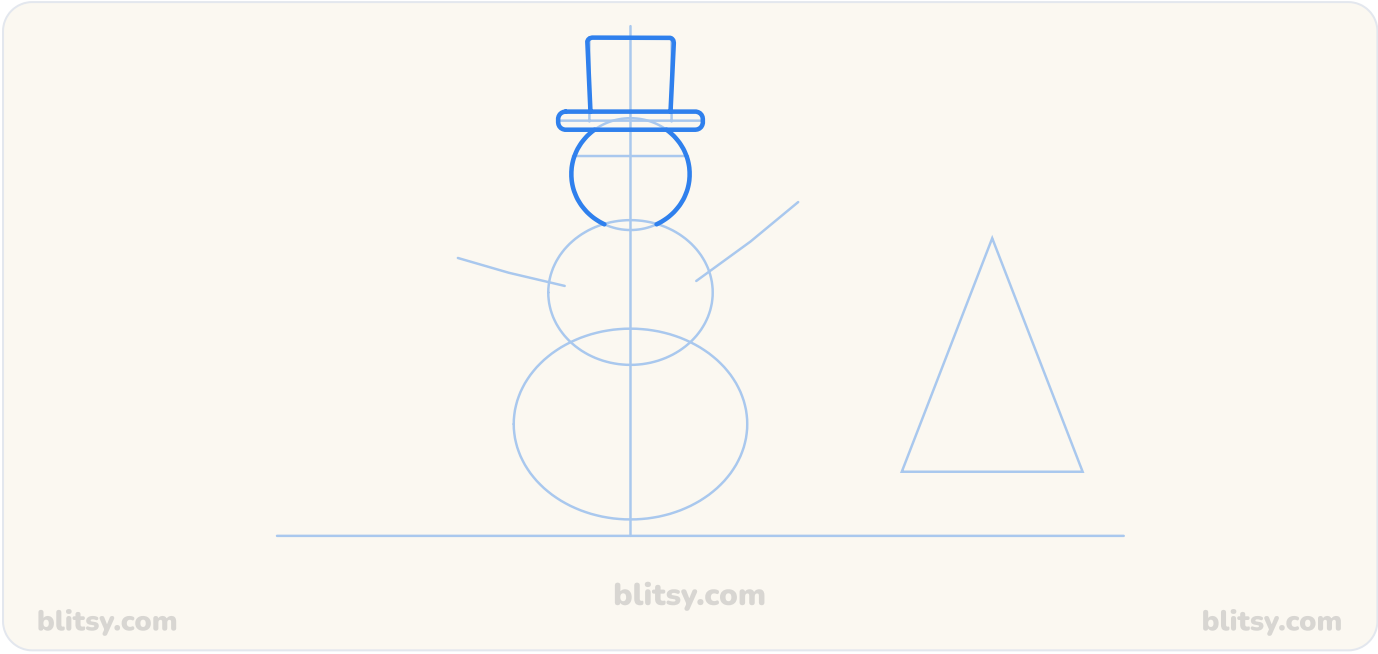
STEP 2 Sketch guides for the hat, face and arm lines



Above the head, draw a tall rectangle for the hat crown and a wider flat line under it for the brim. Add one short line across the head for the eyes. Then sketch two bent lines out from the middle ball, one going sideways and one rising like a wave. A tall triangle on the right marks the spot for the pine tree.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the eye line in the upper half of the head so there's room for the nose and smile below it.

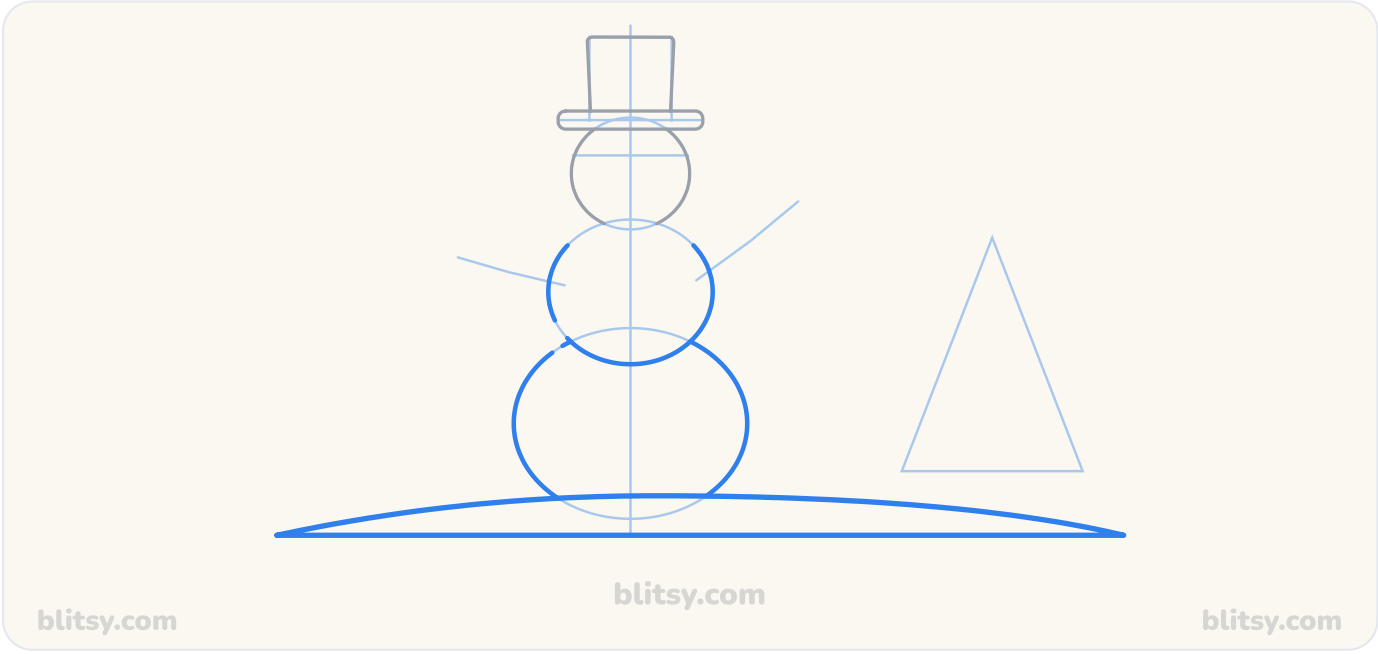
STEP 3 Draw the round head and the top hat



Go over the head circle with a smooth, firm line, leaving out the top where the brim sits. The crown is a tall shape that narrows very slightly toward the bottom, with soft corners. Under it, draw the brim as a long, thin rounded bar. Most beginners make the brim too short, and then the hat looks like a bucket.

💡 **Tip:** Let the brim overhang the head on both sides by about the width of your finger.

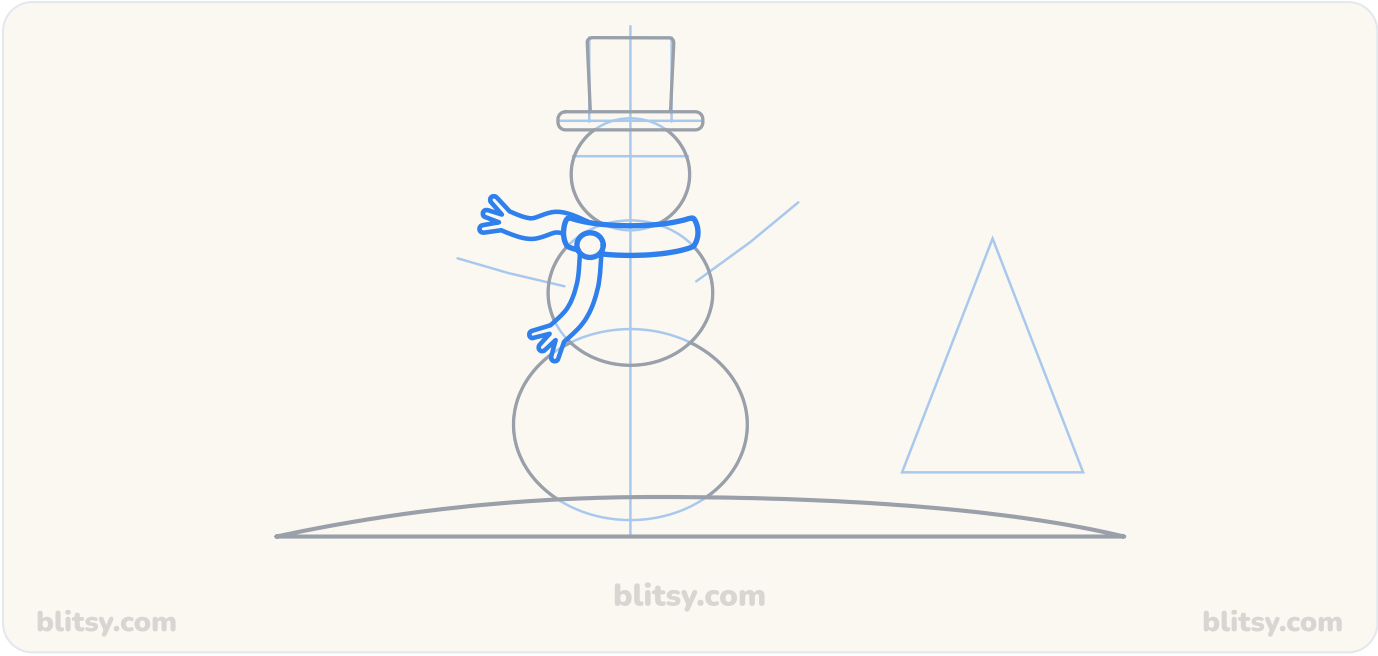
STEP 4 Outline the snowballs and a mound of snow



Trace the middle circle, stopping where the head covers it, then outline the big bottom ball. Now draw a low, wide hill across the bottom of the page. The bottom snowball should sink into it a little, so stop its outline at the hill line. That small trick makes him look heavy and planted in real snow.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the hill with one slow sweep of your arm, not lots of short strokes.

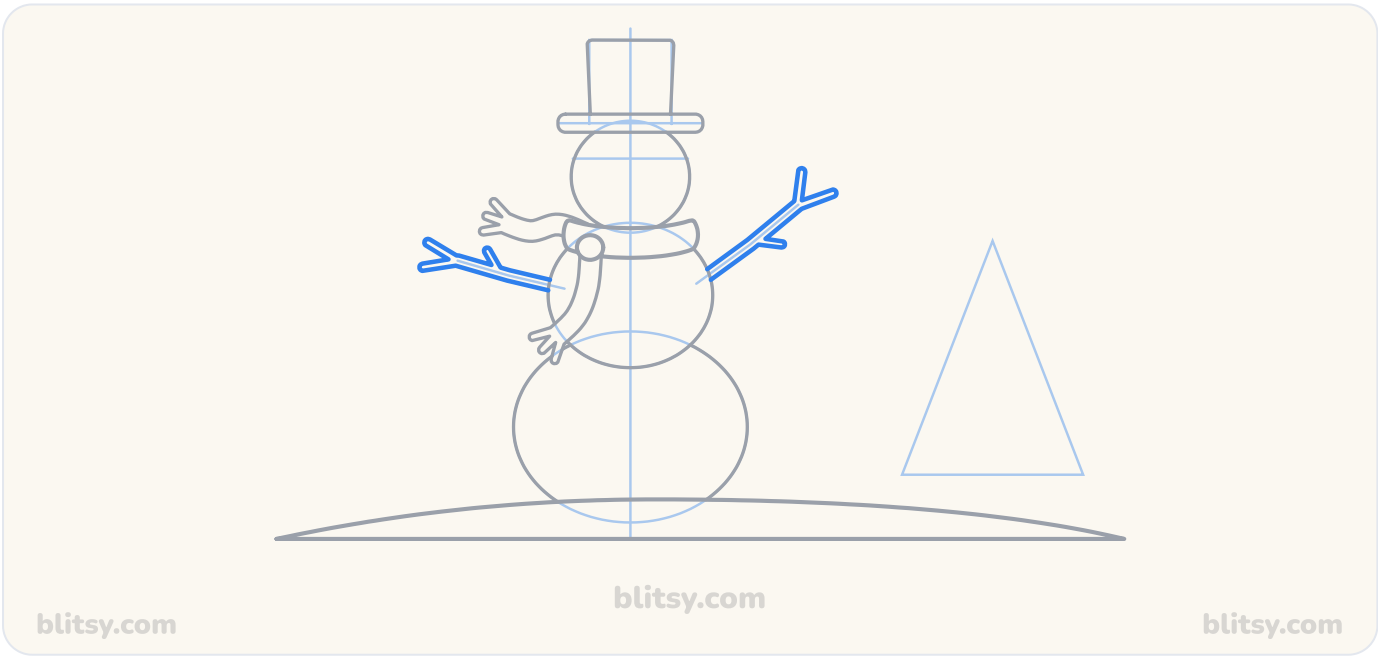
STEP 5 Wrap a scarf with blowing tails



Draw a curved band around the neck where the head meets the middle ball, with a small round knot on the left. One tail hangs down over the body and flicks out to the left. The other streams sideways, as if the wind is pulling it. I finish both ends with three short fringe strands that fan out.

💡 **Tip:** Point both tails the same way. That one choice is what tells the viewer it's windy.

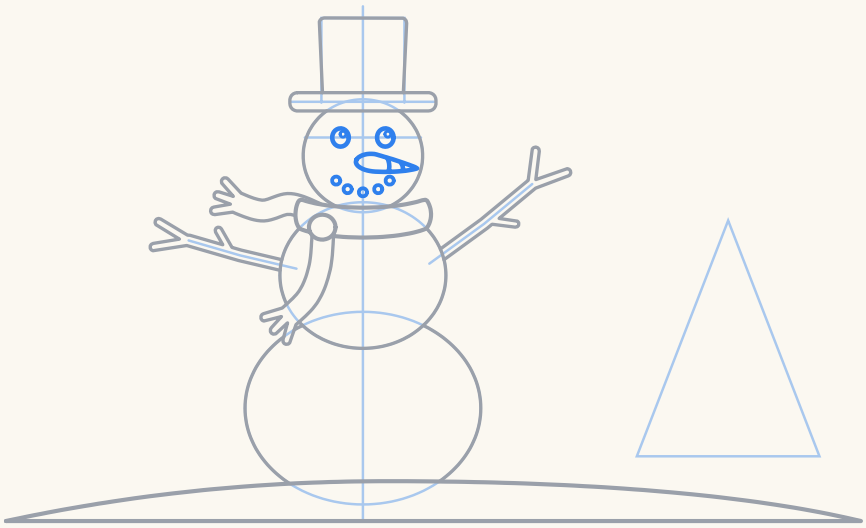
STEP 6 Add stick arms with twig fingers



Follow your arm guides with thin double lines that start right at the edge of the middle ball. Give each stick a slight bend, split the end into two small twigs, and add one extra twig halfway along. I raise one arm higher than the other, which makes him look like he's waving hello.

💡 **Tip:** Make the twigs crooked on purpose. Perfectly straight sticks look like they came from a ruler.

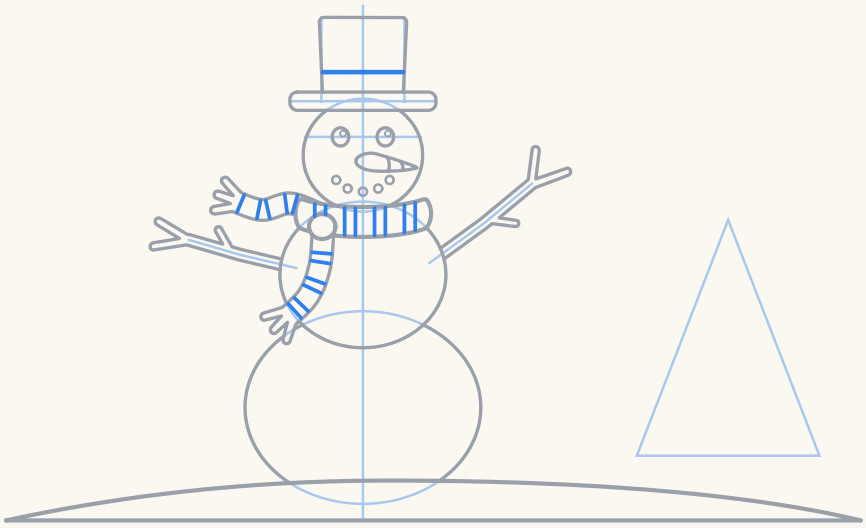
STEP 7 Place coal eyes, a carrot nose and a dotted smile



On the eye line, draw two small round eyes with a tiny shine in each. Just below them, start a carrot nose with a rounded end and stretch it to the right into a sharp point. Two curved marks across it give it texture. For the smile, place five dots in a gentle curve, like coal pressed into the snow.

💡 **Tip:** Space the smile dots evenly; one dot out of line makes the grin look crooked.

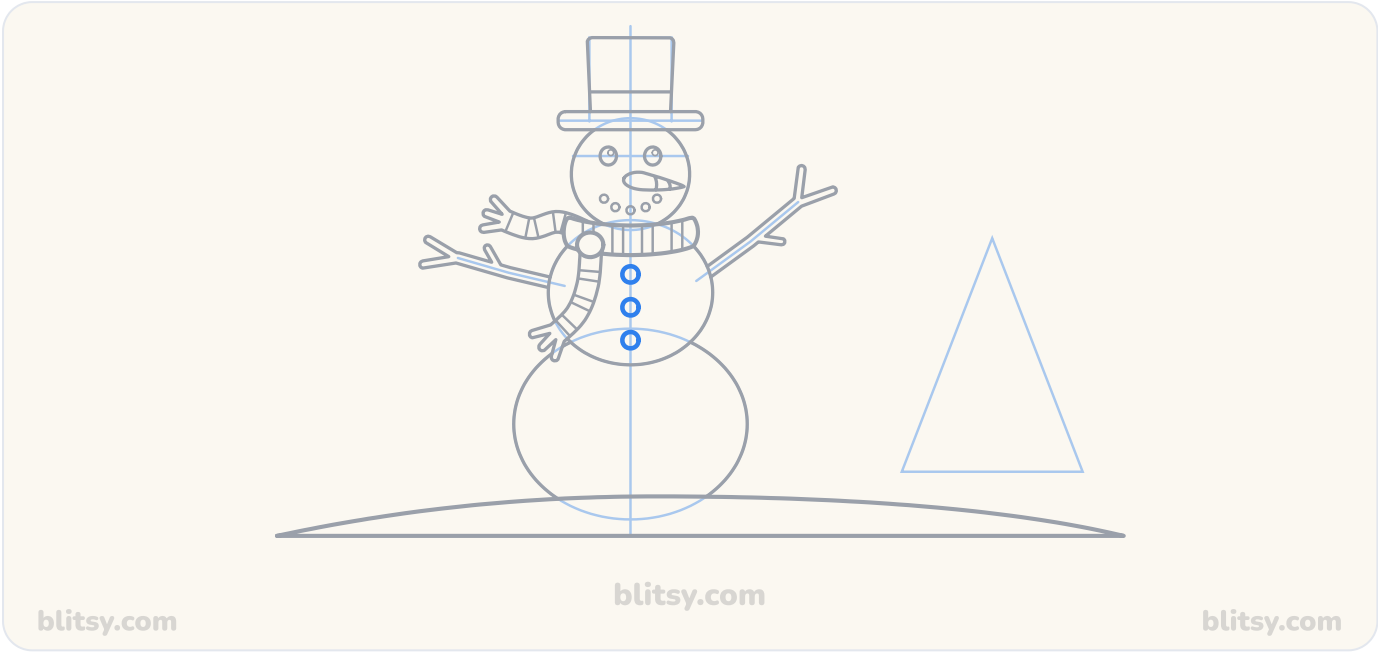
STEP 8 Draw the hat band and scarf stripes



Across the lower part of the hat crown, draw one line parallel to the brim; the space below it becomes the red band. On the scarf, add pairs of short lines across the neck band and both tails for stripes. On the curving tails, turn each stripe so it runs across the fabric, not straight up and down.

💡 **Tip:** Stripes that follow the bend of the tail make the scarf look soft and wrapped, not flat.

STEP 9 Add three round coal buttons



Down the center of the middle snowball, draw three small circles in a straight line. Put the first just under the scarf and the last a little above the big snowball. Same size for all three. They're simple, but they help the eye read the middle ball as his chest.

💡 **Tip:** Use the center guide line to keep the buttons lined up before you erase it.

STEP 10 Draw a pine tree and some snowflakes



Inside the triangle, build the tree from three stacked layers, the top one smallest, each with a slightly wavy bottom edge. A short trunk peeks out under the lowest layer and disappears into the snow. For snowflakes, draw small stars of three crossing lines and scatter about seven of them around.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the tree shorter than the snowman so he stays the main character of the picture.

STEP 11 Ink your lines and erase the guides



Trace every final line with a black pen. I go around the big shapes first with steady strokes, then do the small parts like the smile dots and fringe. Let the ink dry for a minute. Then erase the circles, the center line, the hat box and the tree triangle.

💡 **Tip:** Rest the side of your hand on a scrap of paper while inking so you don't smear what's done.

STEP 12 Color your snowman



Leave the snowballs and the hill mostly white. With light pressure, add pale blue along the right side of each ball, under the scarf and under the brim. The hat is black with a thin gray shine stripe, the scarf red with green stripes. Use orange for the nose, brown for the sticks and a touch of pink on the cheeks.

💡 **Tip:** Shade the tree's right half a darker green so it matches the shadows on the snowman.