How to Draw a Tulip

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

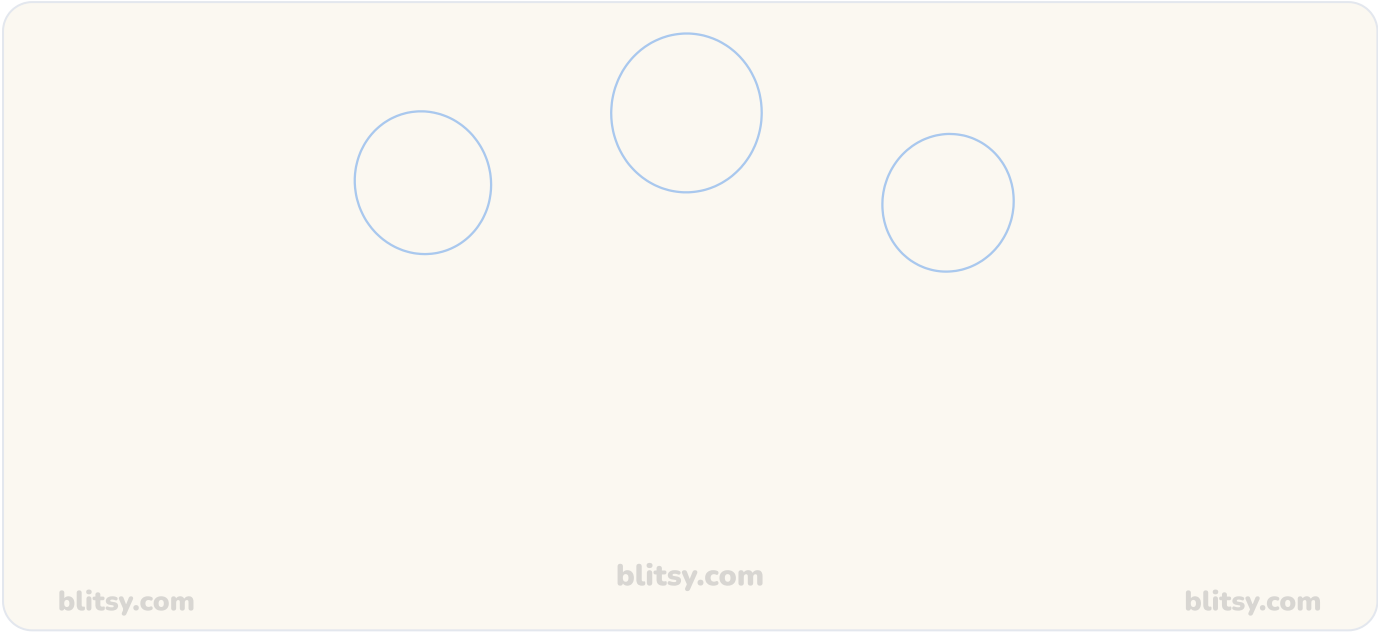
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Paper

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 →

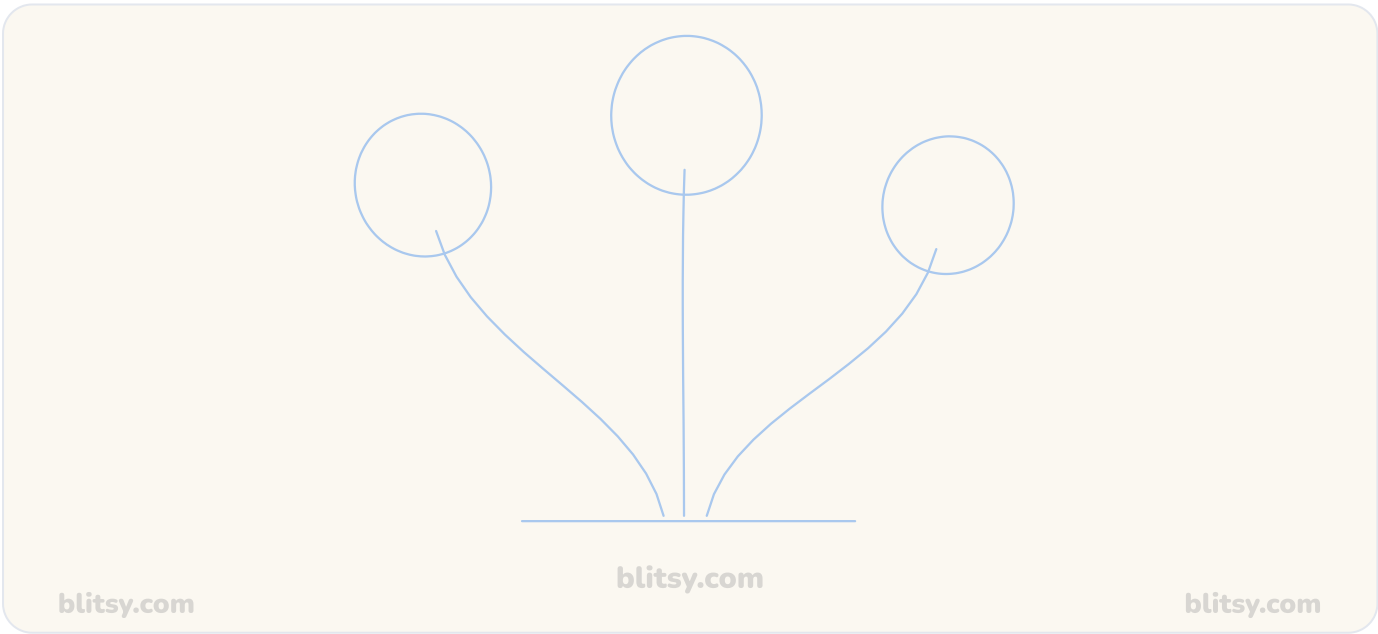
STEP 1 Draw three ovals for the flower cups



Sketch three small ovals across the upper half of the page. Put the biggest one in the middle and highest, then one lower on the left and one lower still on the right. These ovals only set the size of each flower head. Different heights matter more than you'd think, because three tulips in a straight row look stiff.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the line; these ovals disappear later.

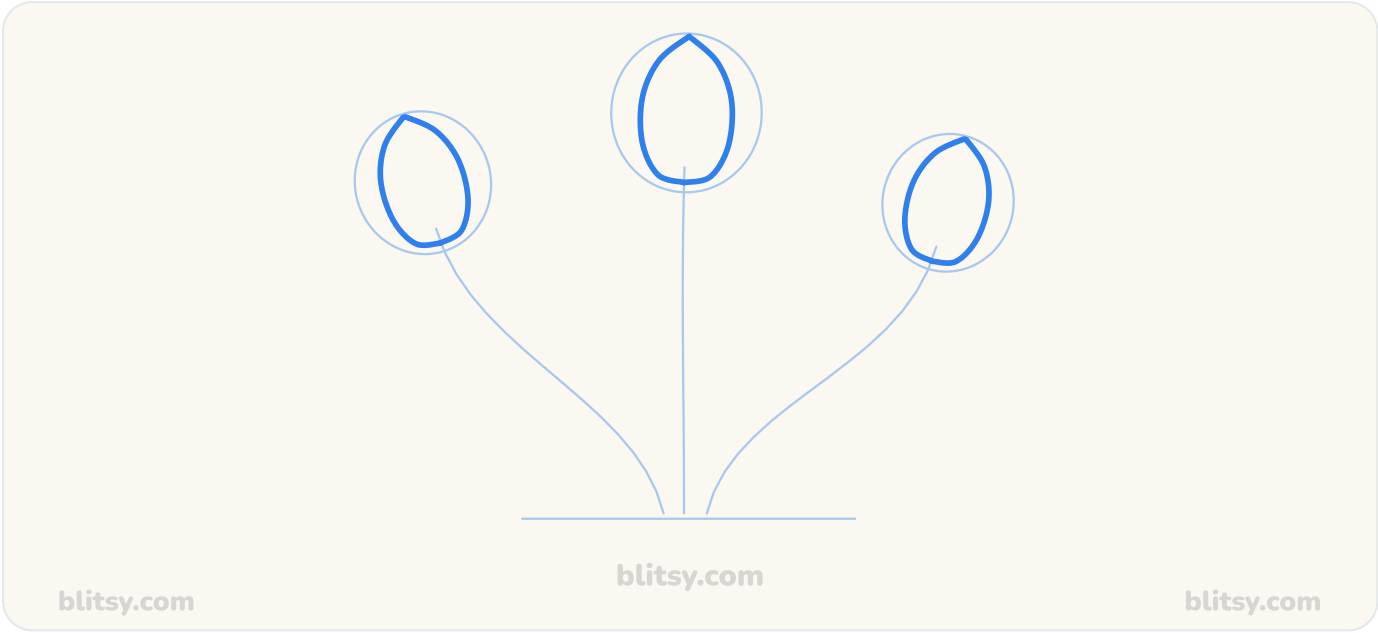
STEP 2 Add the stem curves and a ground line



Draw a short flat line near the bottom of the page for the ground. From the bottom of each oval, pull a line down to the middle of that ground line. The middle stem stays almost straight, while the outer two bend in a soft S. All three should meet close together, as if they grow from one spot.

💡 **Tip:** Start each stem line at the flower and pull your hand toward you; curves come out smoother that way.

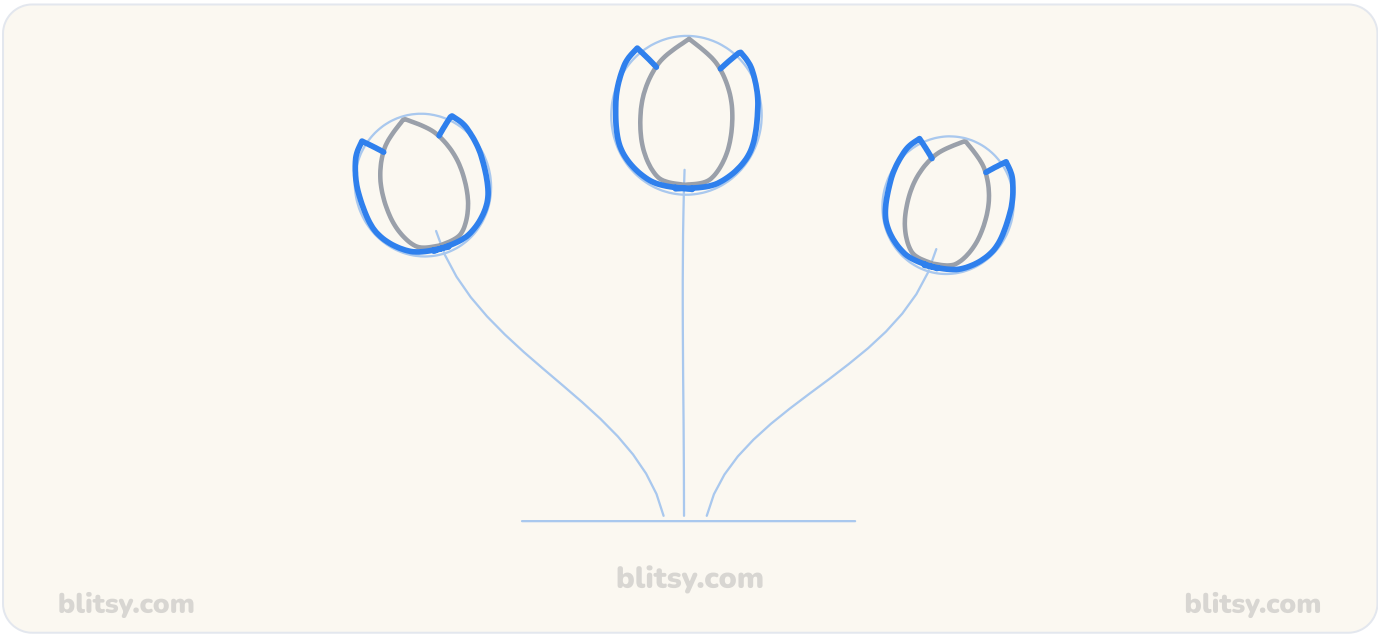
STEP 3 Draw a pointed front petal in each oval



This is the shape that makes a tulip. Inside each oval, draw a U with a rounded bottom, then bring both sides up to meet in a single point at the top. It looks a bit like an upside down raindrop. Keep it narrower than the oval, because the side petals still need room on both sides.

💡 **Tip:** If the point comes out lopsided, tilt your paper so your hand moves in its most natural direction.

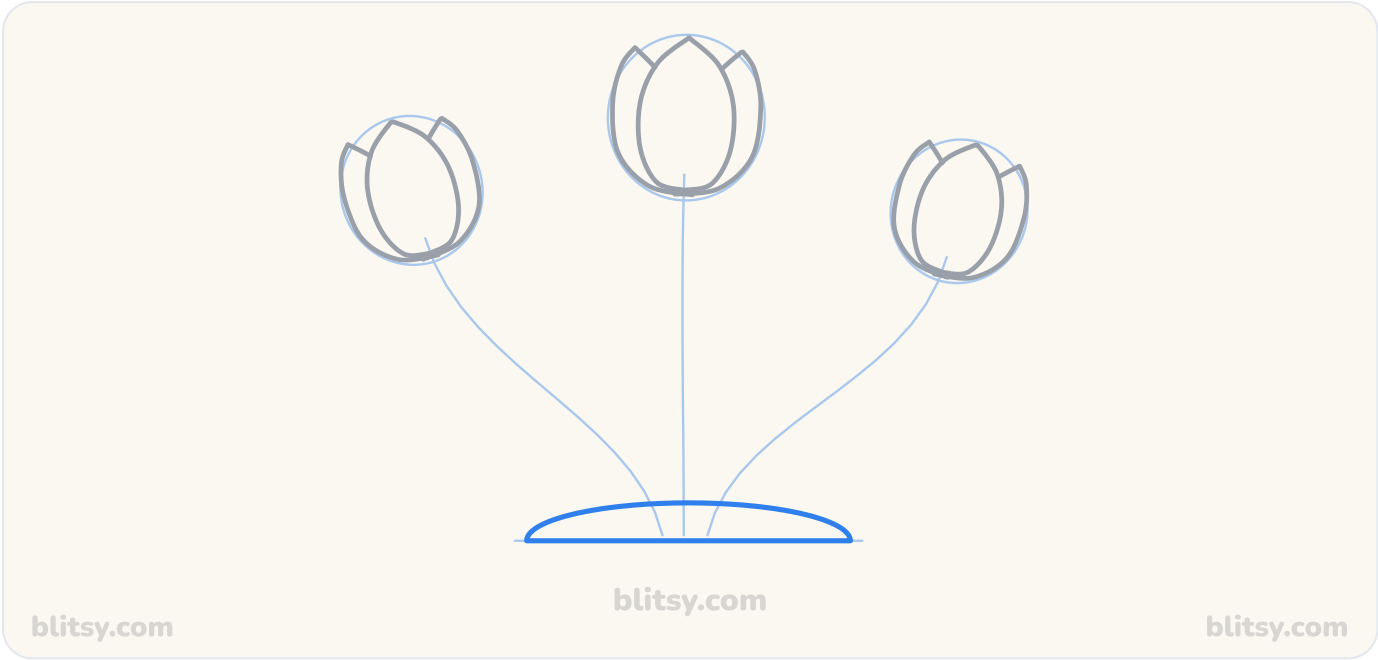
STEP 4 Add two side petals to each tulip



Now hug the front petal with a side petal on the left and one on the right. Each starts at the bottom of the cup, swells out past the front petal and ends in its own point just below the top tip. I stop the inner edge of each side petal where it meets the front petal. That little V notch between the tips is what tells everyone it's a tulip.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the side points a bit lower than the middle point so the cup looks open, not flat.

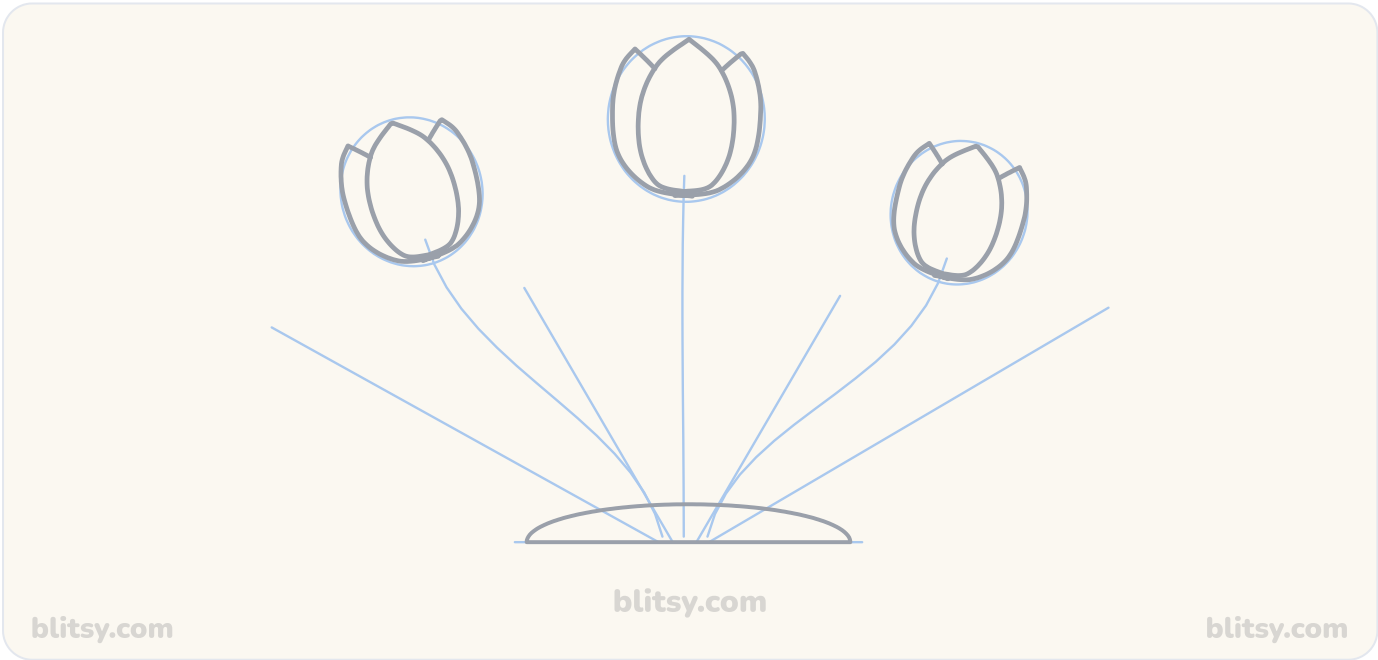
STEP 5 Draw a small soil mound



Over the ground line, draw a wide, low dome where the stems meet. Close it with a straight line underneath. The mound gives the bunch something to stand on and hides the crowded spot where the stems and leaves meet, which is hard to draw neatly.

💡 **Tip:** Make the mound about as wide as the space between the two outer flowers.

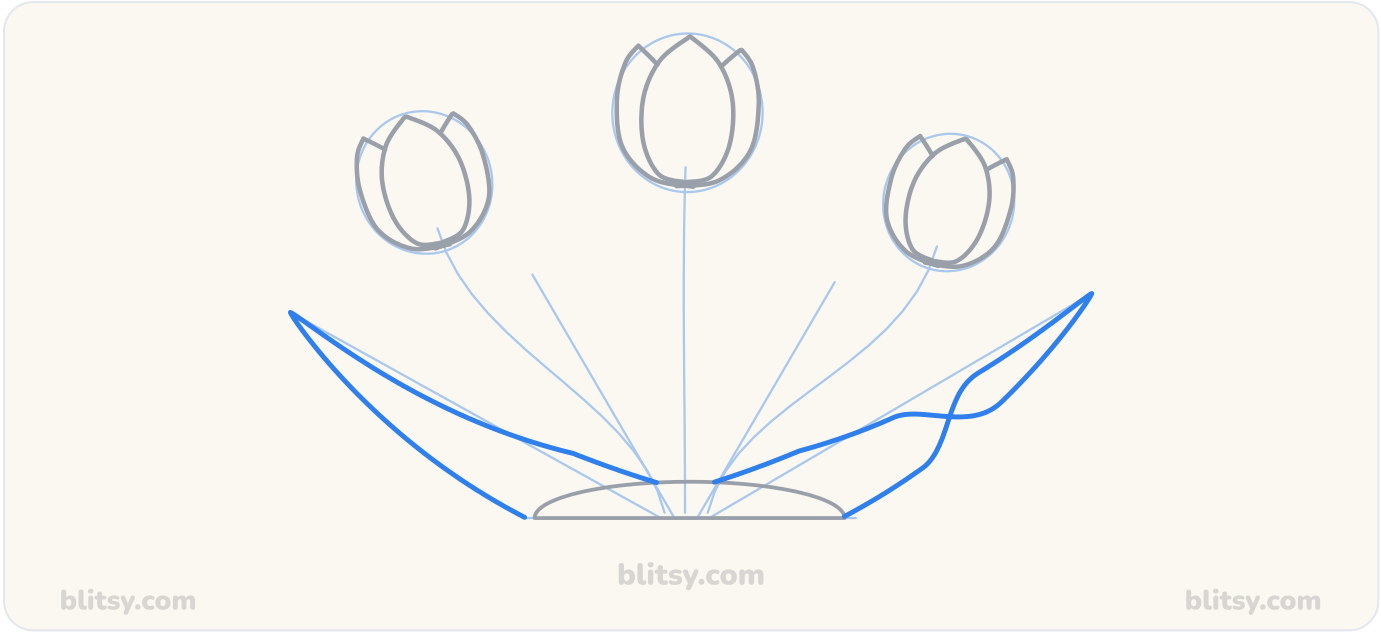
STEP 6 Sketch four lines for the leaves



From the top of the mound, draw four straight guide lines fanning outward. Two long ones go out low to the left and right. Two shorter ones rise more steeply between the stems. Spacing them like the fingers of a spread hand stops the leaves from piling on top of each other.

💡 **Tip:** Check that no leaf line runs straight into a flower head.

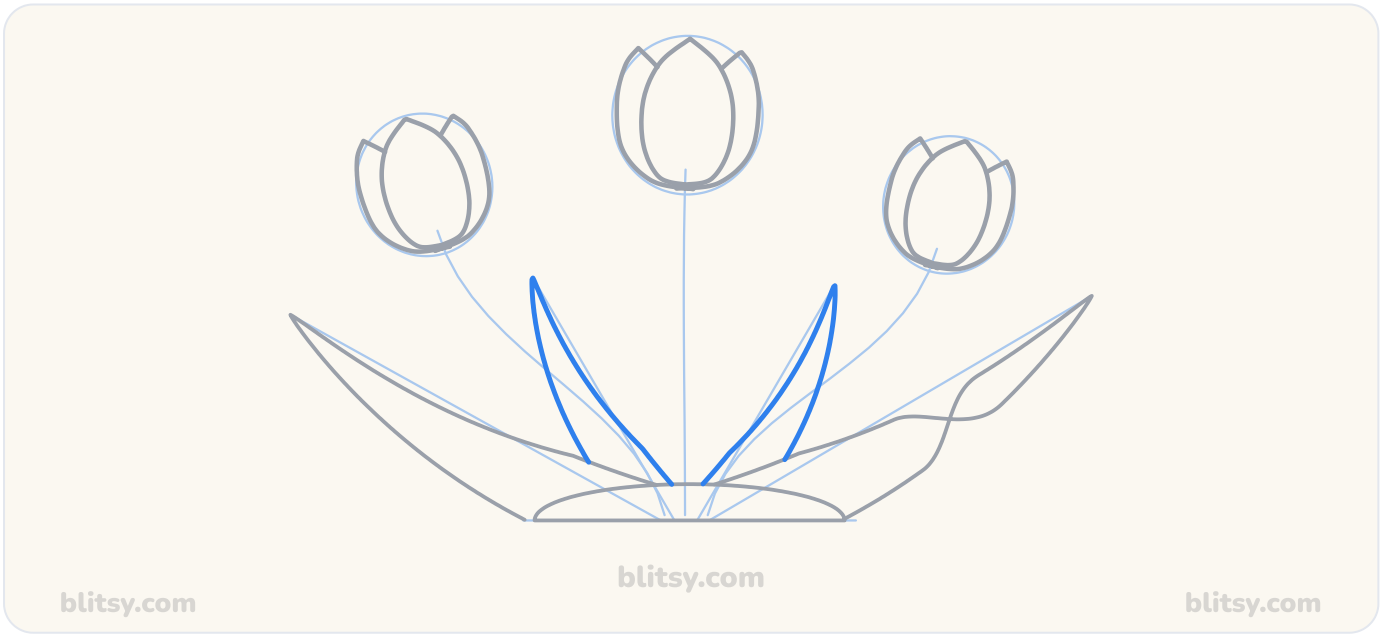
STEP 7 Draw the two big front leaves



Tulip leaves are wide at the bottom and taper into a long sharp point. Draw the left one along the low left guide, curving gently upward at the tip. For the right leaf, I add a twist about halfway along: let the two edges narrow and cross each other, then open out again into the pointed tip. Younger kids can draw a plain leaf instead.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the twist as a soft X, not a knot; two gentle crossing curves are all it needs.

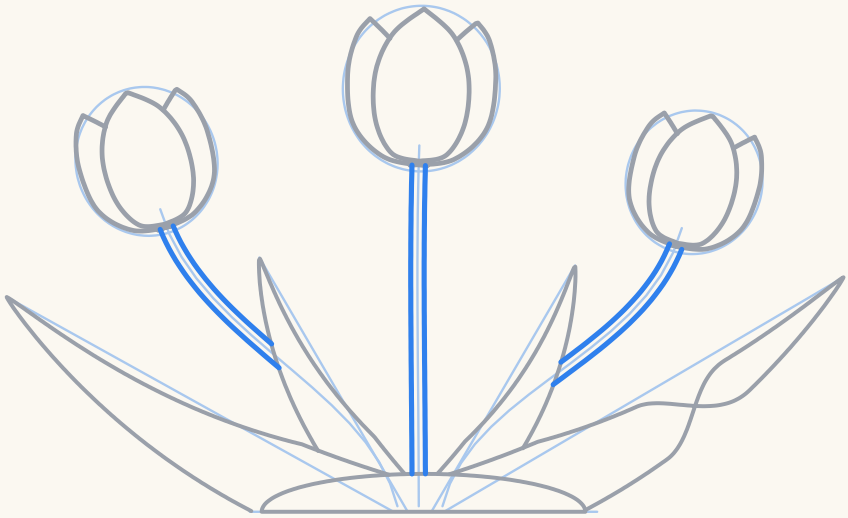
STEP 8 Add the two tall back leaves



Along the two steeper guides, draw narrower leaves that point upward. They sit behind the big front leaves, so start each one where it peeks out above a front leaf. Leave out any line that a front leaf would cover. These upright leaves fill the gaps between the stems and make the bunch look full.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the back leaves shorter than the stems so the flowers still stand above everything.

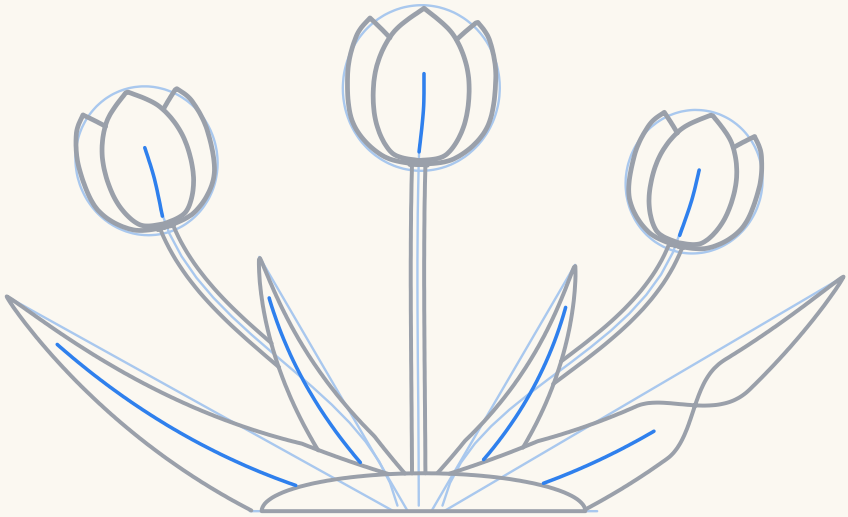
STEP 9 Draw three long stems



Trace each stem guide on both sides to turn it into a thin tube of even width. Start right under each cup and stop wherever a leaf crosses in front. Real tulip stems are thick and strong, so I draw them a little wider than feels natural.

💡 **Tip:** Thin wobbly stems make the flowers look like they'll droop; steady, parallel lines fix that.

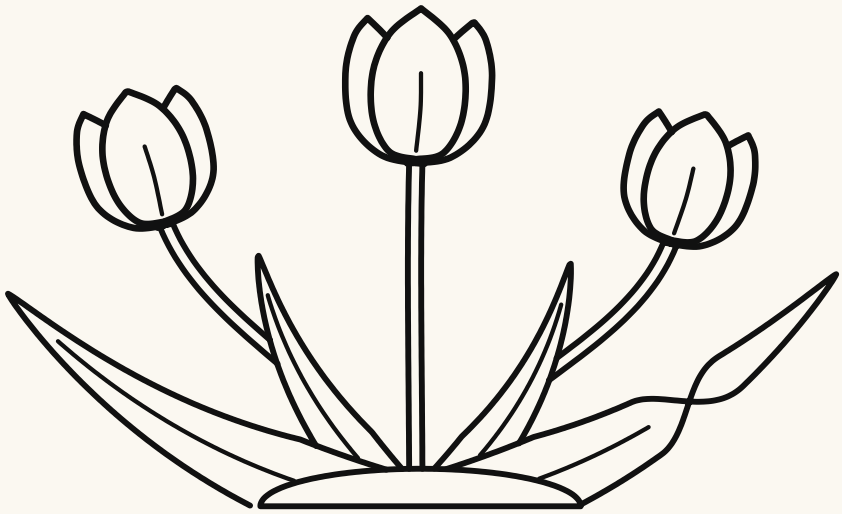
STEP 10 Add petal creases and leaf fold lines



Down the middle of each front petal, draw a short curved line from the base about halfway up. It shows that the petal is gently folded, not flat. On each leaf, draw a thin line along the middle from the base toward the tip. Stop it before the end so the tip stays sharp and clean.

💡 **Tip:** Lift the pencil off the paper at the end of each crease so the line fades out softly.

STEP 11 Ink the drawing and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line with your black pen: petals first, then the stems, leaves and mound. Skip the ovals, the stem guides and the leaf lines. Give the ink a minute to dry, then erase all the pencil underneath. The tulips will suddenly look crisp and finished.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the page as you ink the curved petals instead of twisting your wrist.

STEP 12 Color your tulips



Color each front petal in its main color: red in the middle, pink on the left, yellow on the right. Use a deeper shade for the side petals, like dark red, dark pink or orange, since they turn away from the light. Leave a thin pale streak on each front petal for shine. Color stems and leaves green, with the lower half of each leaf darker, the twisted leaf tip light green and the mound brown.

💡 **Tip:** Color the darker side petals first, then the front petal, so the light shade stays clean.