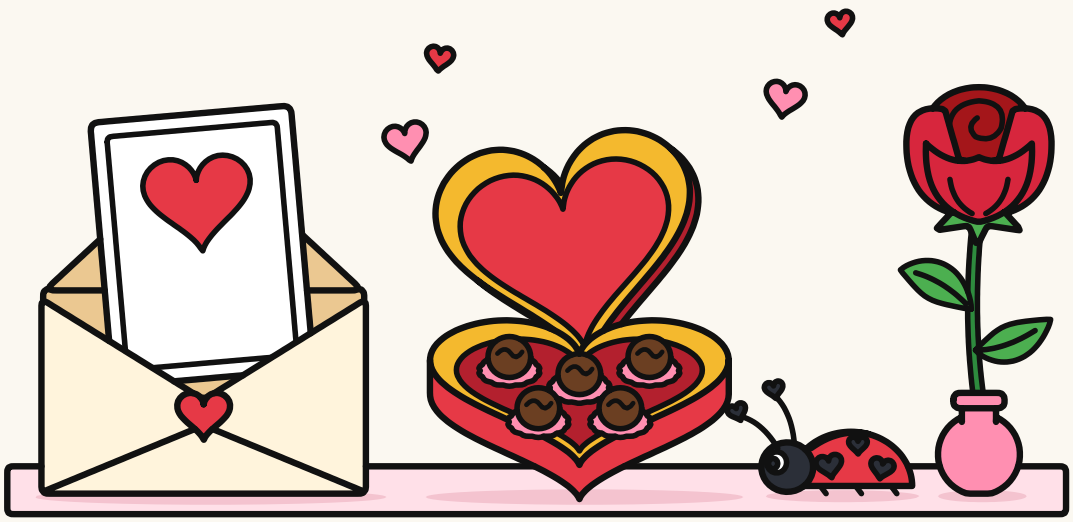
How to Draw a Valentine Set

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

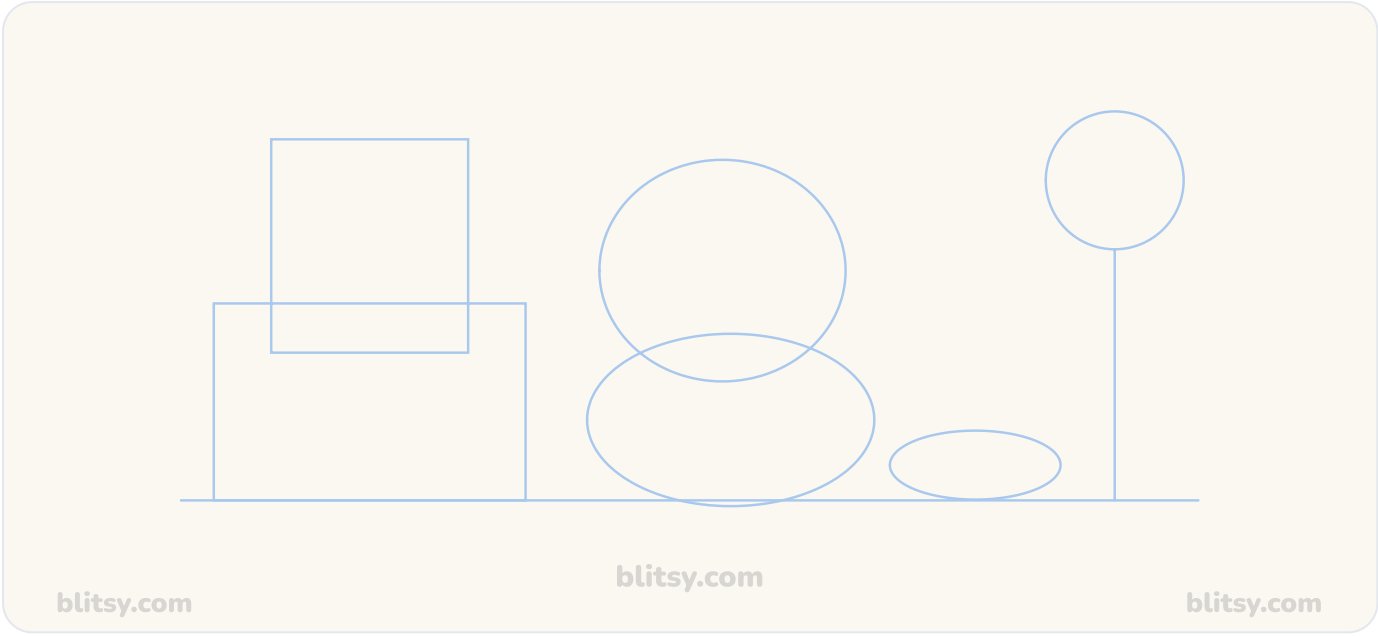
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Coloring pencils or crayons
- Paper turned sideways

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 →

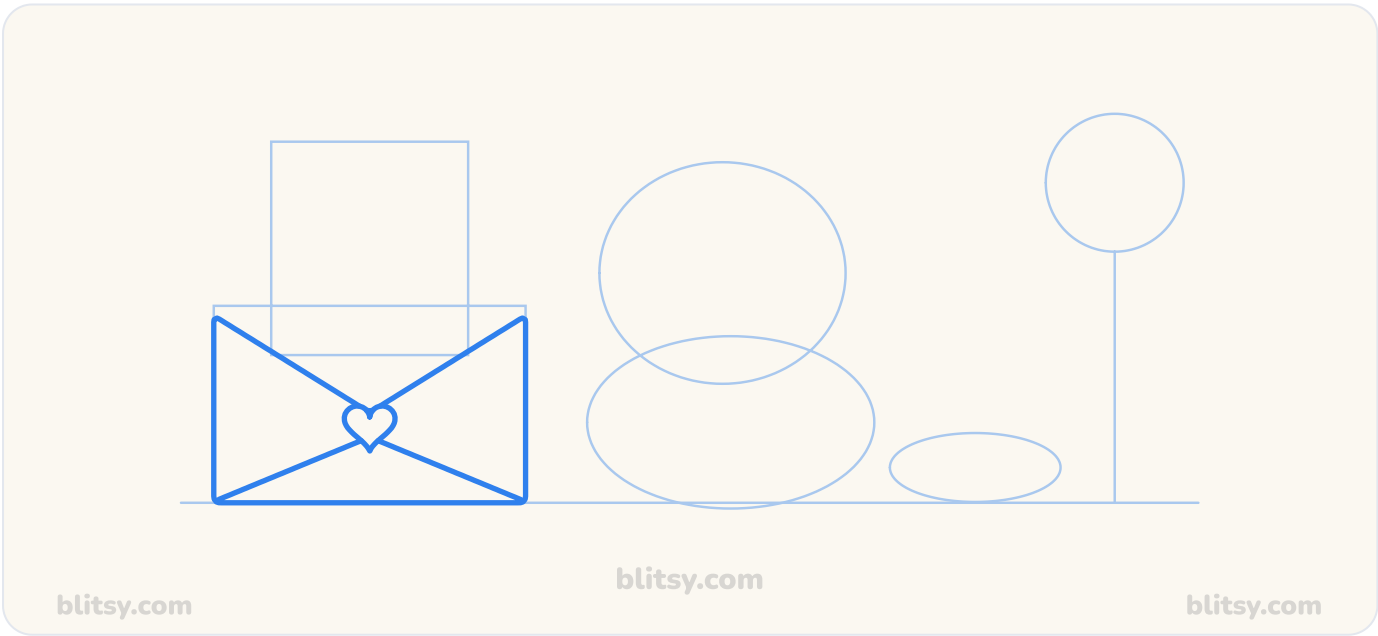
STEP 1 Draw a table line and light guide shapes



Start with one long, level line near the bottom of the page; everything stands on it. Then sketch the helpers very lightly: a wide box for the envelope with a tall box poking out of it for the card, a big oval with a rounder one above it, a small flat oval for the ladybug and a circle on a stick for the rose.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a finger's width of space between the guide shapes, so every object has its own room.

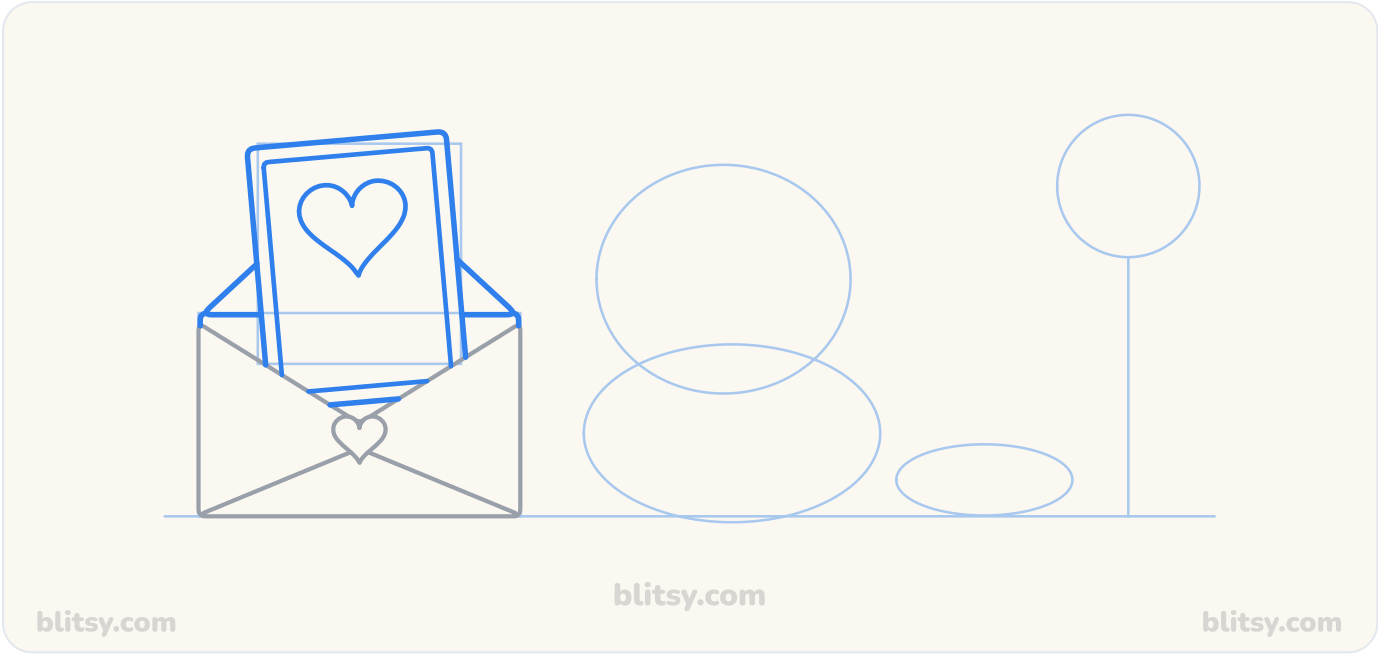
STEP 2 Draw the envelope pocket and the heart seal



I draw the front of the envelope first, because it sits in front of the card. Trace the sides and bottom of the wide box, then make the top edge a wide V that dips to the middle. From each bottom corner, draw a line up toward that point and put a small heart sticker where the lines meet.

💡 **Tip:** Make the V dip about halfway down the envelope. Too shallow and the card looks like it's floating.

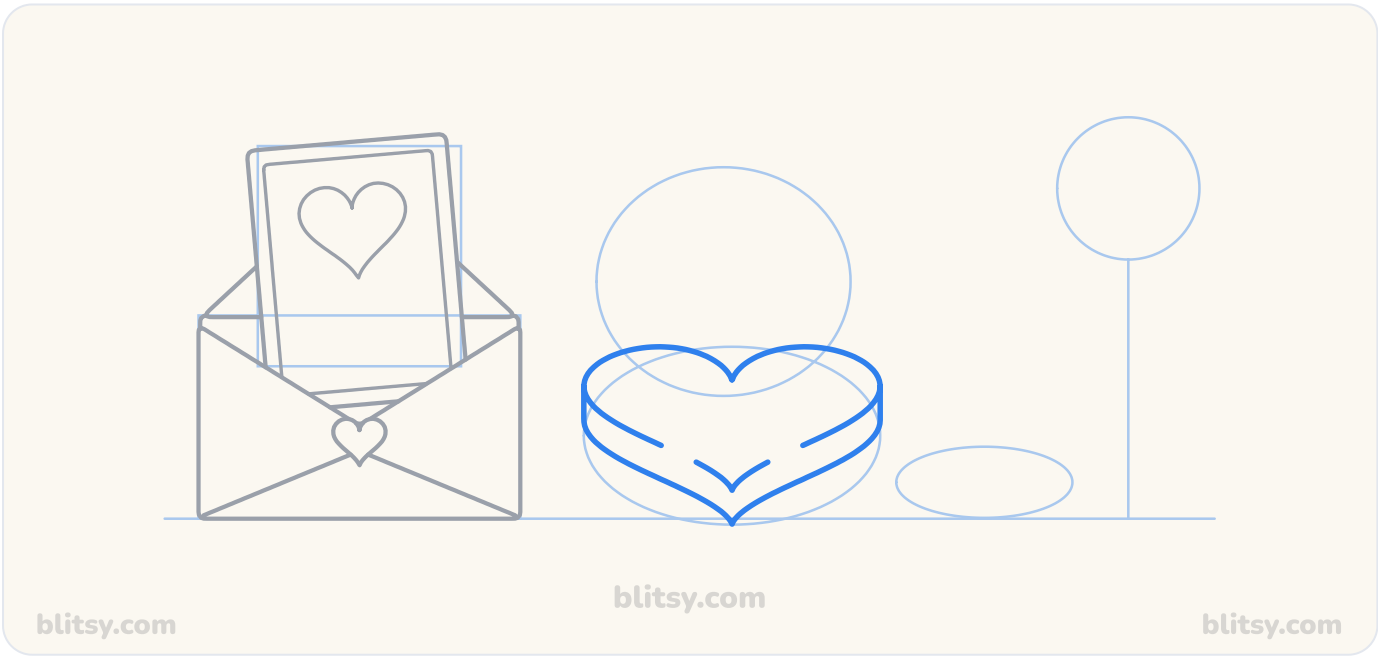
STEP 3 Add the card and the open flap



Draw the card as a tall rounded rectangle, tilted a little to the left, with its bottom hidden in the pocket. A second rectangle just inside the edge makes a border, and a big heart goes in the upper half. Behind the card, two slanted lines rise from the envelope's top corners for the open flap.

💡 **Tip:** A small tilt on the card makes it look like it's being pulled out right now.

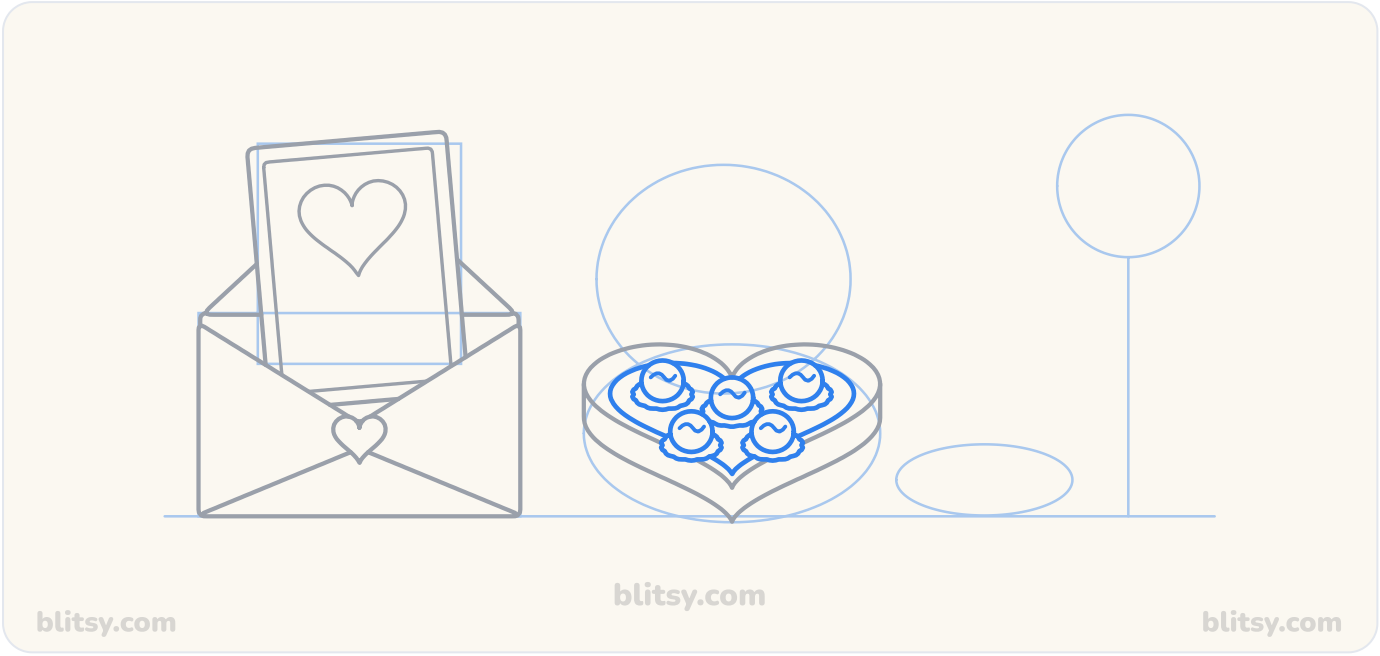
STEP 4 Draw the heart-shaped box



Inside the big middle oval, draw a wide, squashed heart; it's the top edge of the box seen from slightly above. Drop short lines down from its far left and right points and copy the bottom curve a little lower. I always point out that this band, the side wall, is what makes the box look deep.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the two bumps of the heart the same size by drawing the left half first and mirroring it.

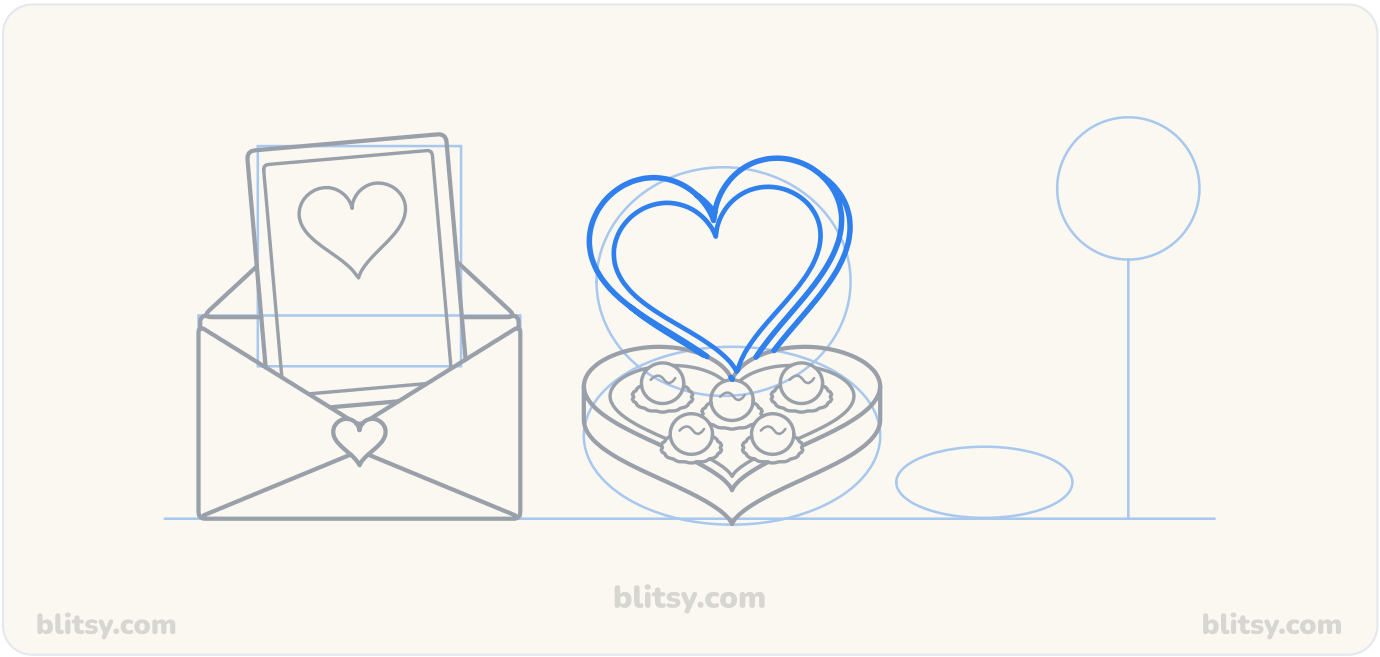
STEP 5 Fill the box with chocolates in paper cups



Draw five round chocolates: three across the back and two lower at the front. Under each ball, add a frilly oval that peeks out at the sides like a paper cup, and a tiny wiggle on top for drizzle. Last, draw a slightly smaller heart inside the rim, stopping wherever a chocolate is in the way.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the front two chocolates before the back three, so you never have to erase an overlap.

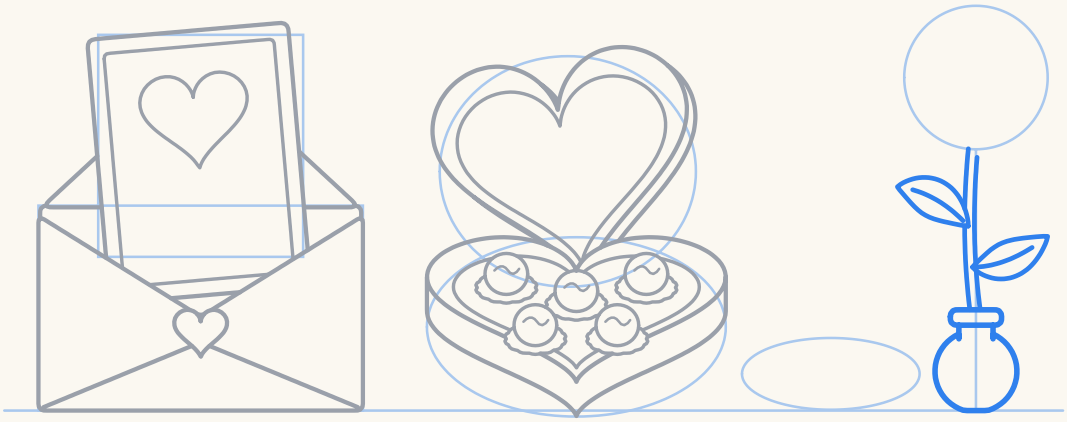
STEP 6 Draw the lid leaning at the back



Above the box, draw a bigger heart tipped gently to the left, with its point hidden behind the box. Add a second heart just inside it for the gold trim, then repeat the outside line a little down and to the right for a thin edge. Most beginners shrink the lid, but a big one reads much better.

💡 **Tip:** Stop every lid line the moment it touches the box rim; the box is in front.

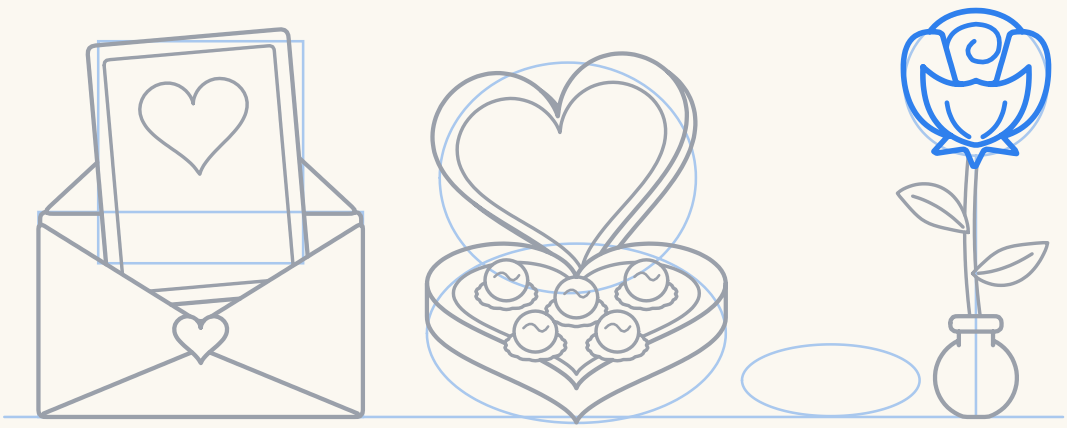
STEP 7 Add the vase, the stem and two leaves



At the bottom of the stick guide, draw a round vase with a short neck and a flat lip. From the neck, pull up a stem made of two close, gently curved lines that reach the circle. Then add two pointed leaves with a center vein, one higher on the left and one lower on the right.

💡 **Tip:** Put the leaves at different heights. Two leaves at the same spot look like a bow tie.

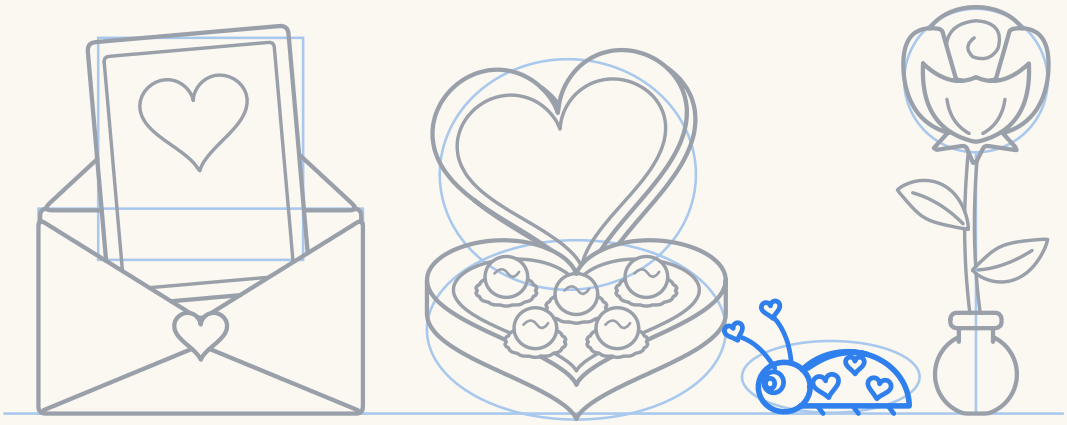
STEP 8 Draw the rose bloom



Inside the circle, draw a round bud near the top with a loose spiral in it. Below it, add a cup-shaped front petal with a wavy top, then a curling petal on each side tucked behind it. I finish with a spiky green collar under the bloom and two short fold lines on the front petal.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the spiral loosely and leave it open in the middle; a tight coil turns into a snail shell.

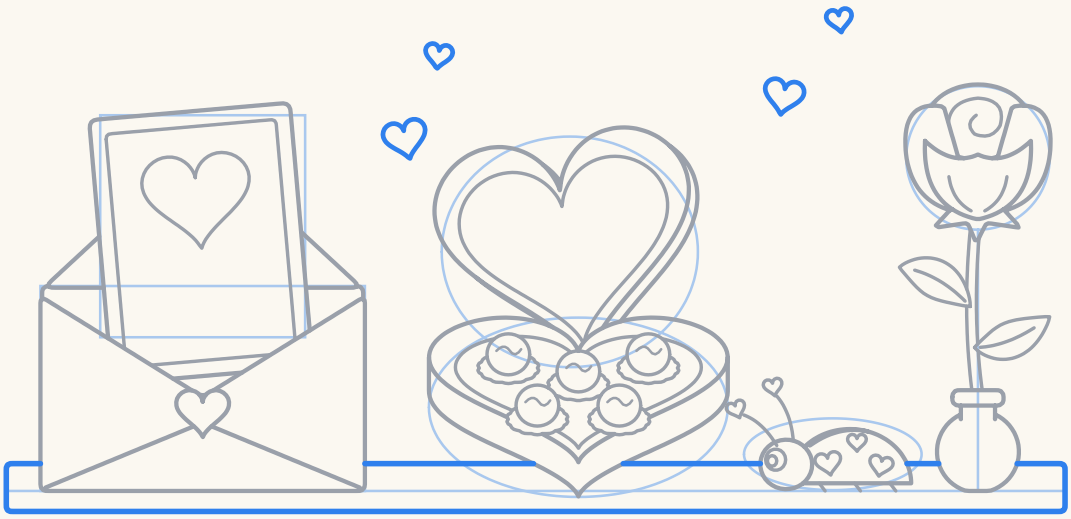
STEP 9 Draw the little love bug



Between the box and the vase, draw a dome with a flat bottom for the shell and a round head on its left. Add a curved line for the wing split, three heart-shaped spots and a big eye. Two antennae curl up with tiny hearts on the ends, and three short legs peek out below.

💡 **Tip:** Give the ladybug one eye facing us and it instantly looks friendly from the side.

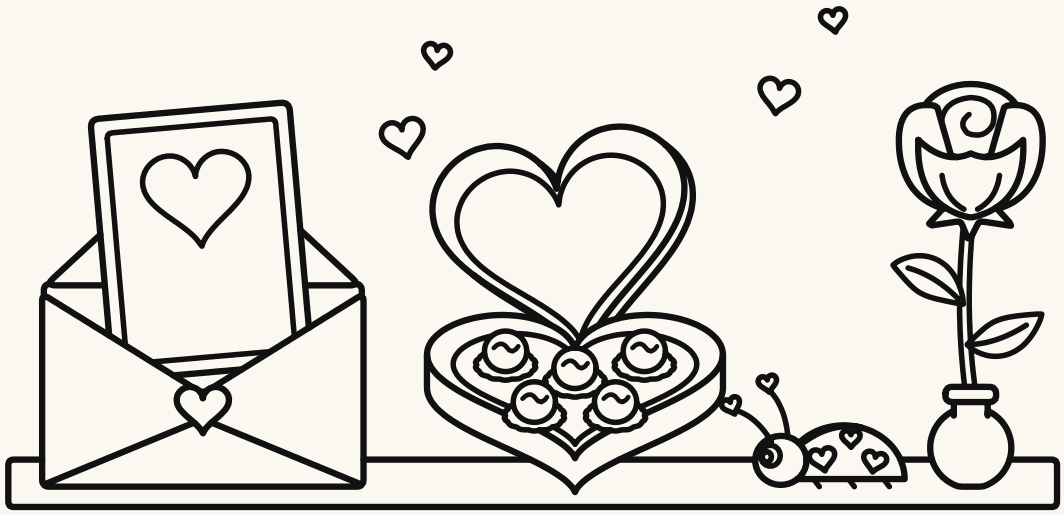
STEP 10 Add the tablecloth and floating hearts



Go over the table line, draw a second line a short way below it and join the ends with rounded corners for the tablecloth. Stop the top line wherever an object stands in front of it. Then scatter four small hearts in the empty space above, each at a different angle.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt each floating heart a different way so they look like they're drifting, not stamped on.

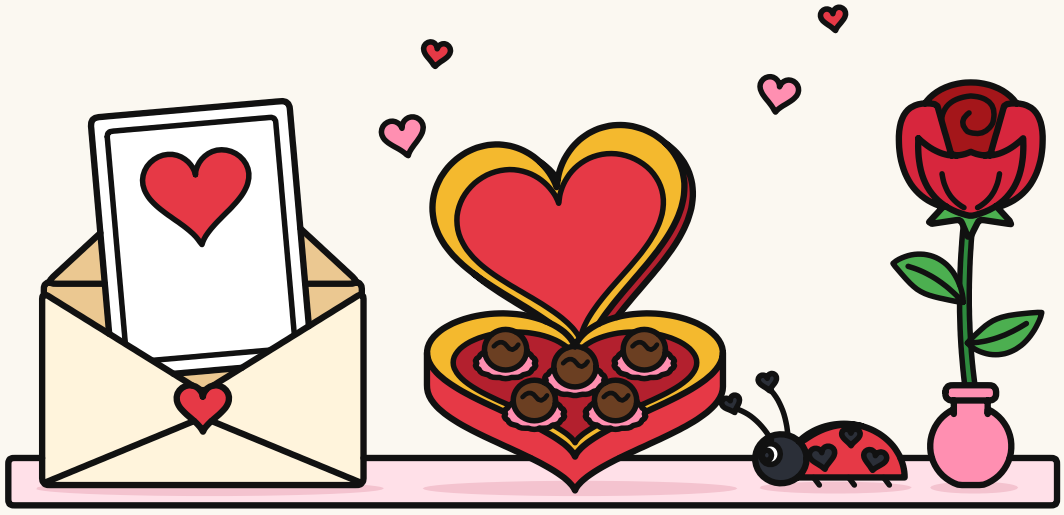
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every line you want to keep with the black marker. Take it slow on the frilly paper cups and the rose spiral, where a shaky hand shows most. Let the ink dry for a minute, then erase all the pale helper shapes.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink the curves, so your hand always pulls the line toward you.

STEP 12 Color your Valentine set



Color the envelope cream with a tan inside, keep the card white and make its heart red. The box gets red walls, a gold rim and a dark red floor, with brown chocolates in pink cups; the lid is gold around a red middle. Make the rose red with green leaves in a pink vase, and give the ladybug a red shell with black hearts.

💡 **Tip:** Press harder for the box floor and the rose bud; the darker red makes them look deeper.