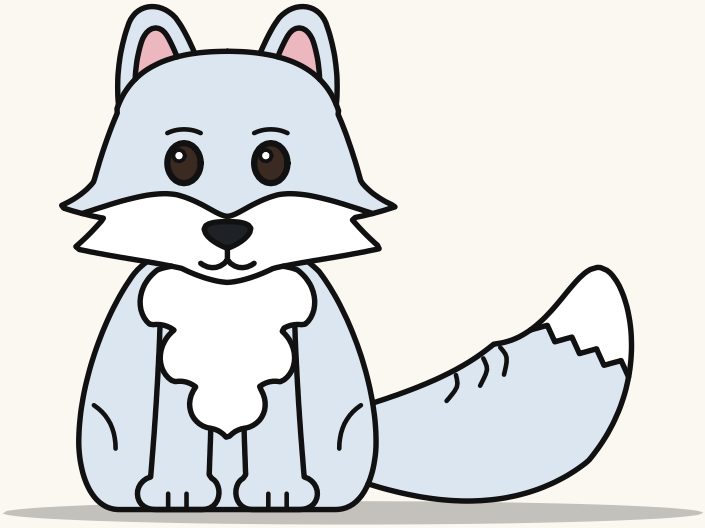
How to Draw an Arctic Fox

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

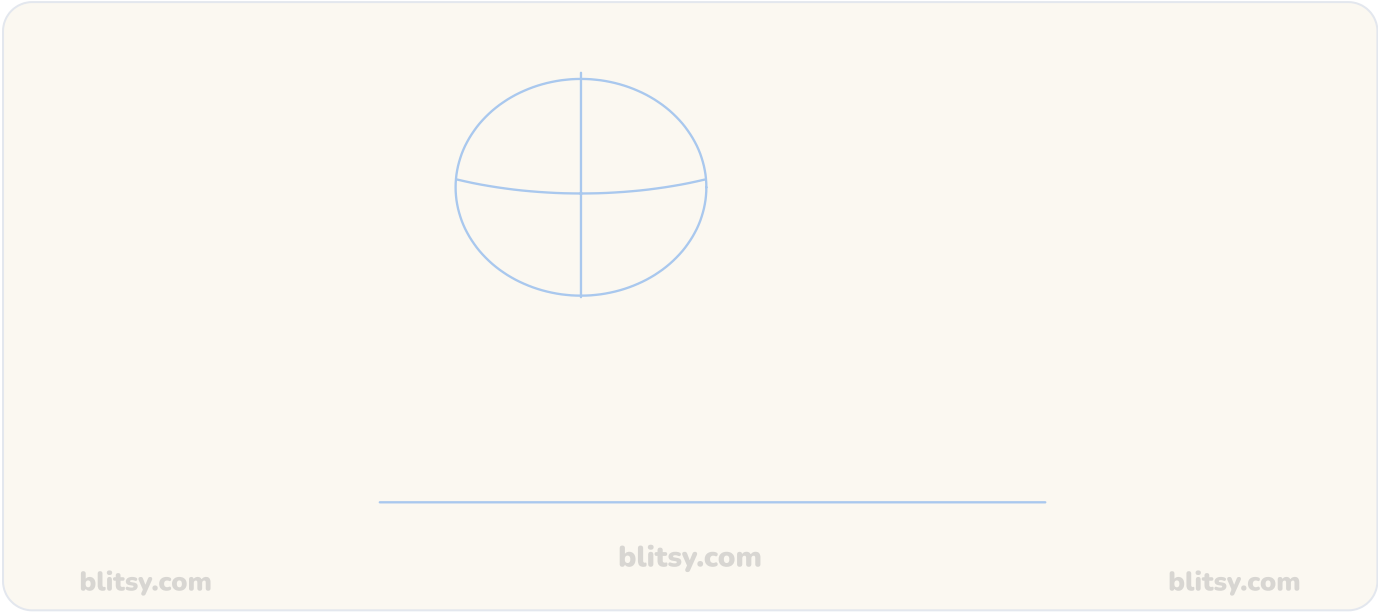
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

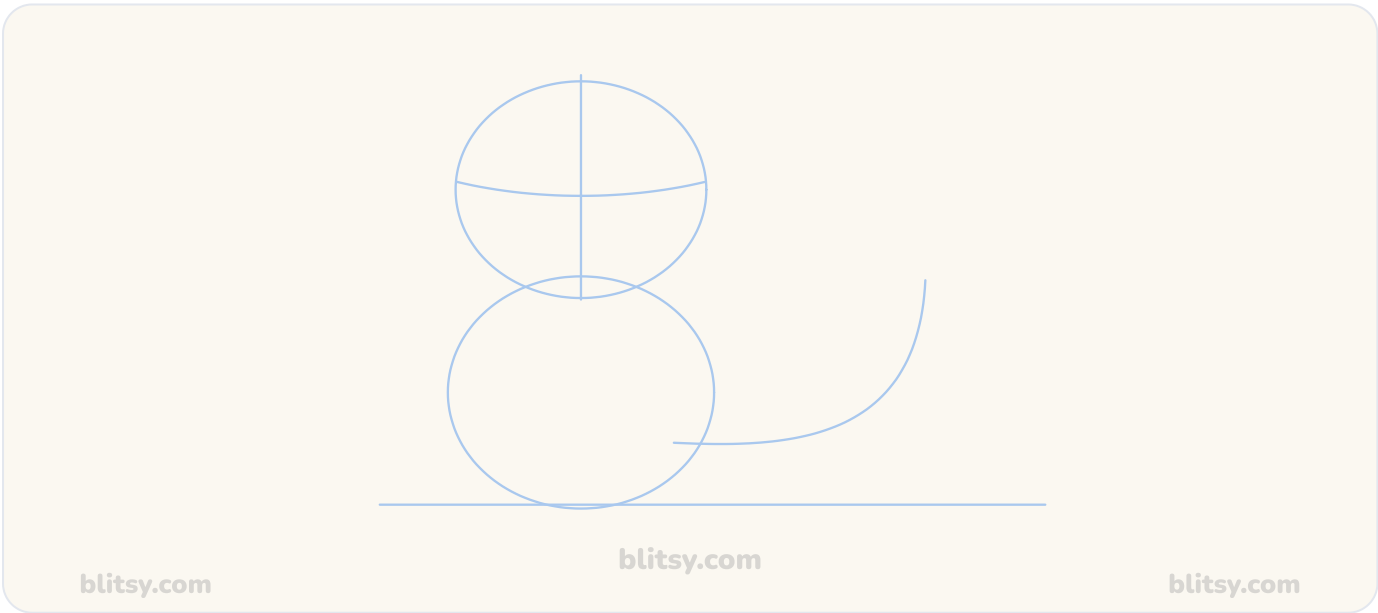
STEP 1 Sketch a head circle, a cross and a ground line



I always start with a long, flat line near the bottom of the page. That's the snow your fox sits on. Above it, toward the top, draw a circle that's slightly wider than it is tall. Then split the circle with a vertical line down the middle and a gentle curve across it, a little below center. The curve tells you where the eyes go later.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that the guide lines look almost silver on the paper.

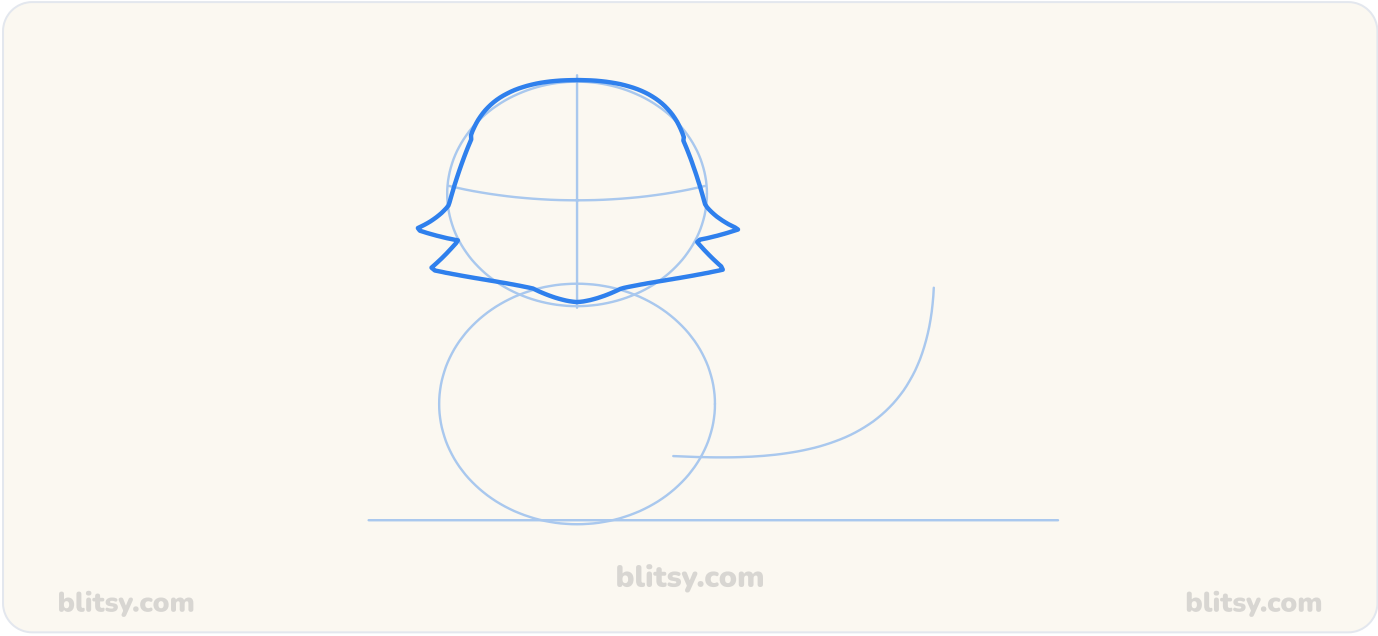
STEP 2 Add a body oval and the tail curve



Right under the head, draw a big oval for the sitting body. Its top should tuck into the bottom of the head circle, and its bottom should touch the ground line. Next, sweep one curved line from the lower right side of the oval, out along the ground, then up into a hook. That single curve is the backbone of the tail.

💡 **Tip:** Make the body oval about the same width as the head. A fox drawn with a skinny body tips over visually.

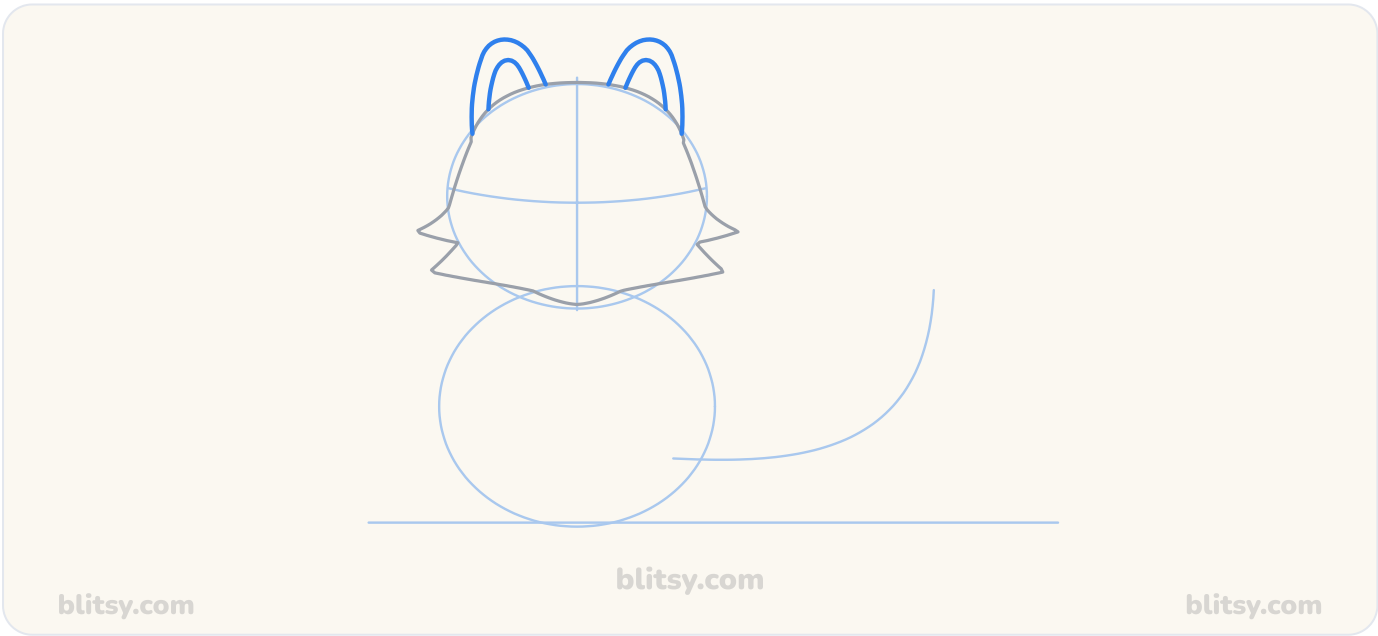
STEP 3 Draw the fluffy head shape



Follow the top of the circle for the forehead, then let the sides slope outward as they come down. Near the cross line, pull each side out into two pointed tufts, one above the other. The tufts make it a fox, not a cat. Close the head with a soft V that comes to a rounded chin below the circle.

💡 **Tip:** I draw the left cheek tufts first and then copy them on the right while I can still see the pair.

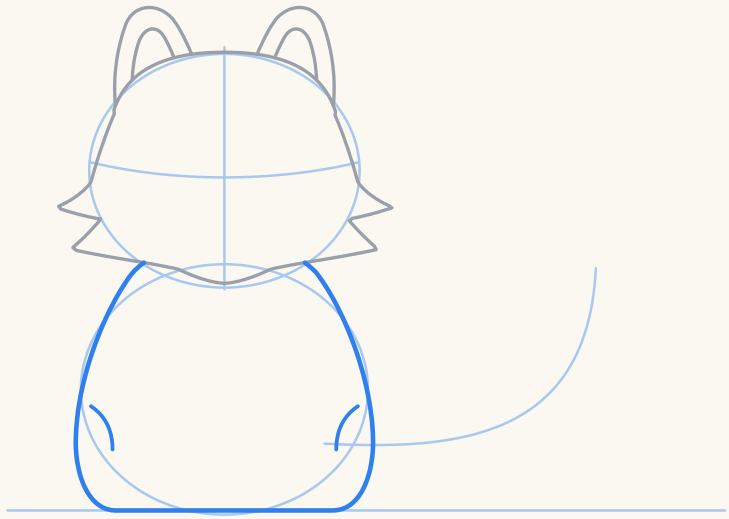
STEP 4 Add small rounded ears



Arctic foxes have short, rounded ears, not tall pointy ones like a red fox. Start each ear on the upper side of the head and curve it up into a soft round tip. Stop the line where it meets the head. Inside each one, draw a smaller copy of the same shape for the inner ear.

💡 **Tip:** If the ears are taller than about a third of the head, trim them down. Short ears say snow fox.

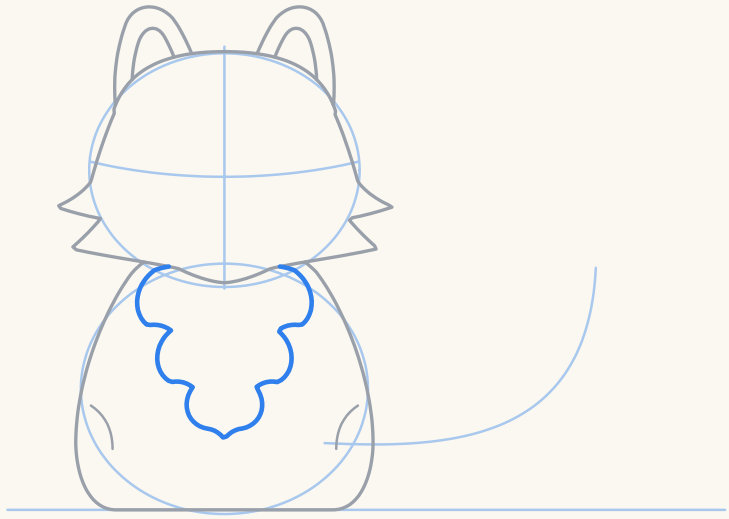
STEP 5 Draw the sitting body



From just under the cheeks, run a line down each side of the body oval. Let the body widen at the bottom into round hips that sit flat on the ground, a bit like a pear. Then add a short curved line inside each hip to show the back legs folded underneath. Those two little curves do a lot of work.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the bottom of the body flat on the ground line so the fox looks settled and heavy.

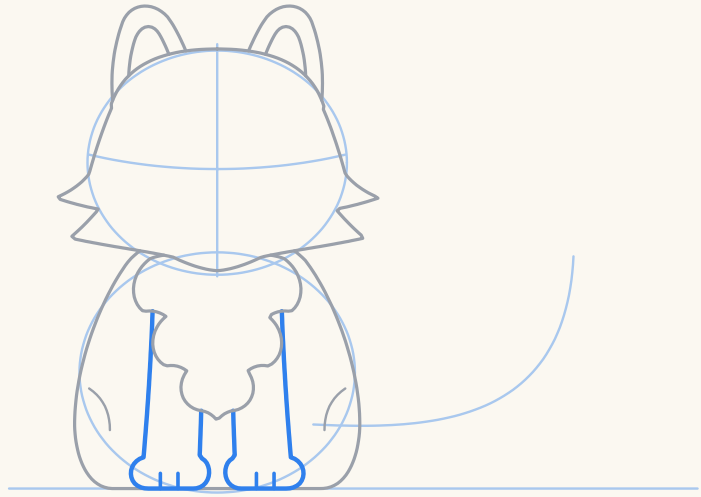
STEP 6 Draw the fluffy chest ruff



Under the chin, draw the white fur patch on the chest. It's made of rounded bumps on each side that step inward as they go down, ending in a small point near the middle of the body. I think of it as a stack of three soft scallops on each side. It sits over the top of the front legs, which come next.

💡 **Tip:** Round bumps look like fur. Sharp zigzags here tend to look like a torn shirt.

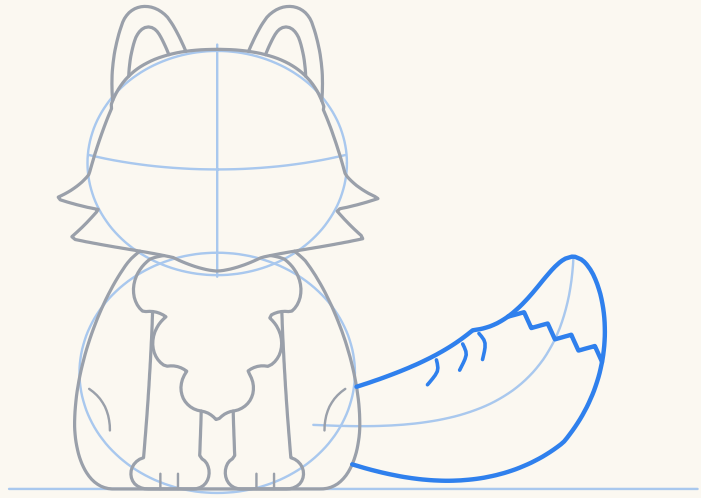
STEP 7 Add the front legs and paws



Drop two pairs of straight lines from the bottom of the ruff to the ground, one pair for each front leg. Keep the legs fairly close together, with a small gap between them. At the bottom, round each one into an oval paw that rests on the ground. Two tiny lines on each paw separate the toes.

💡 **Tip:** Let the legs lean very slightly outward at the paws. Perfectly parallel legs can look stiff.

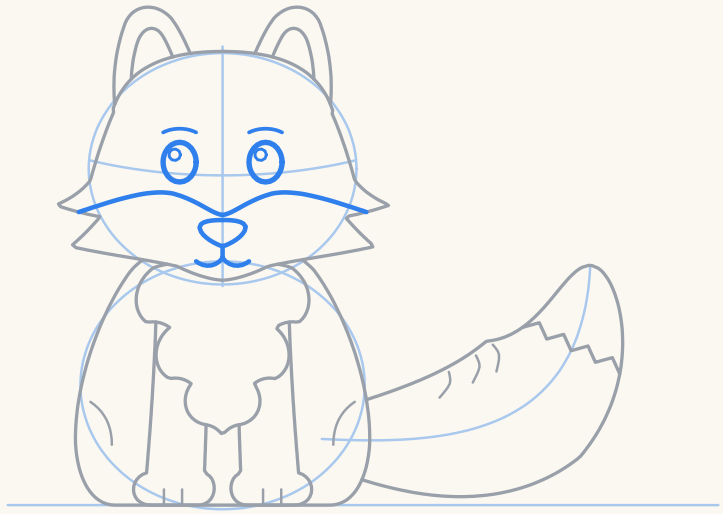
STEP 8 Draw the big bushy tail



Build the tail around your curved guide, starting narrow behind the body and getting fat as it sweeps along the ground. Then taper it into a soft point at the top. Near the tip, draw a short zigzag across the tail to mark off the white tip, and add three little curved strokes on the inside edge for fur.

💡 **Tip:** The tail is nearly as long as the fox is tall. If yours is short, widen the middle and stretch the curve.

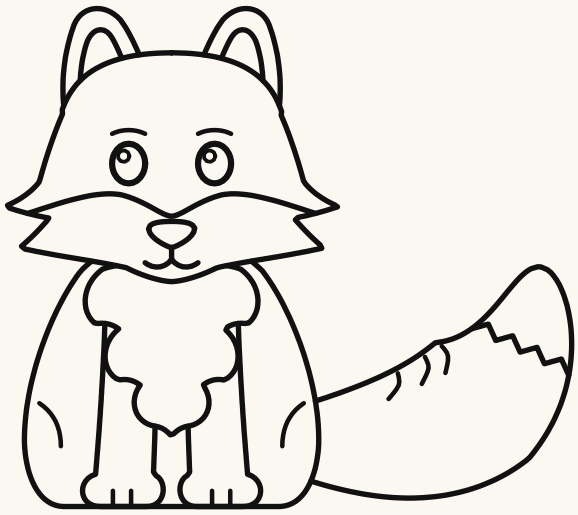
STEP 9 Draw the eyes, nose and muzzle



Place two oval eyes on the cross line, about one eye width apart, each with a small circle for the shine. Add a short curved brow above each one. Below the eyes, draw a wavy line from cheek to cheek that dips down to the middle. Everything under it turns white later. Finish with a rounded triangle nose and a little W-shaped mouth.

💡 **Tip:** Put both eye shines on the same side, upper left, so the fox seems to look at you.

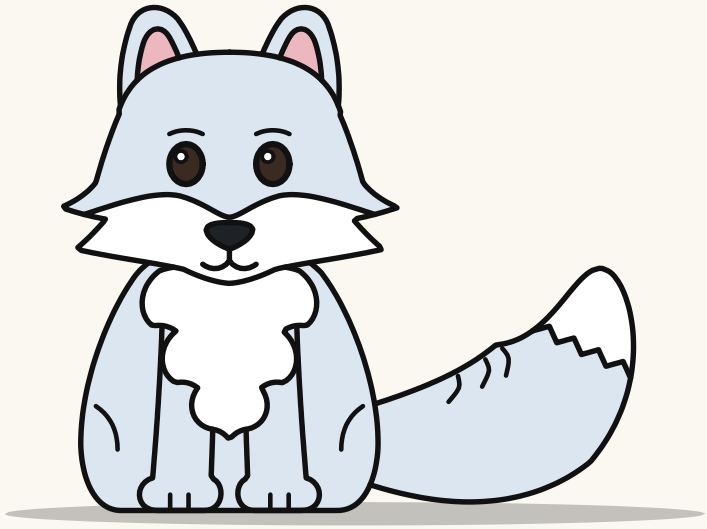
STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace over every keeper line with your black pen. Skip the circle, the oval, the cross, the tail curve and the ground line. I wait a full minute for the ink to dry before I erase. Most beginners rush this part and smudge a fresh line across the white face.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the fur strokes and hip curves with a lighter hand than the outline.

STEP 11 Color your arctic fox



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Color all the fur with a light blue-gray, pressing softly. Leave the lower face, the chest ruff and the tail tip as clean white paper, or go over them with a white pencil. Use light pink for the inner ears, dark brown for the eyes and black for the nose.

💡 **Tip:** Real white fur looks blue-gray in snow shade. That pale tint is what makes the white parts pop.