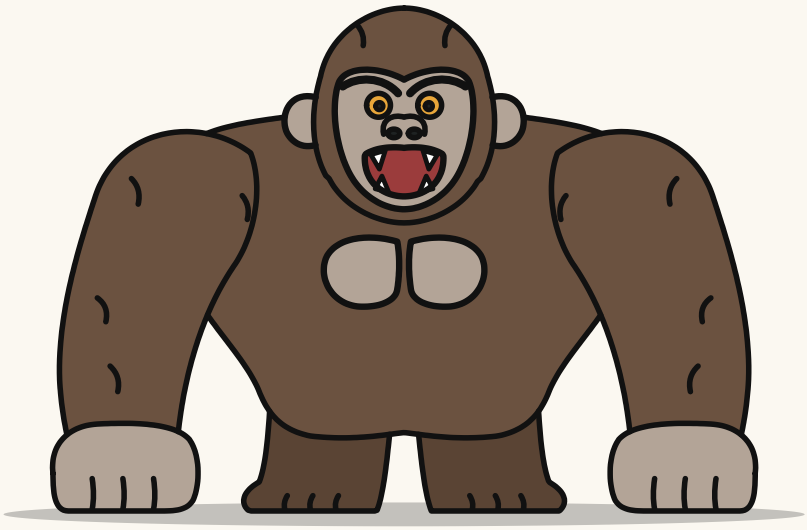
How to Draw King Kong

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

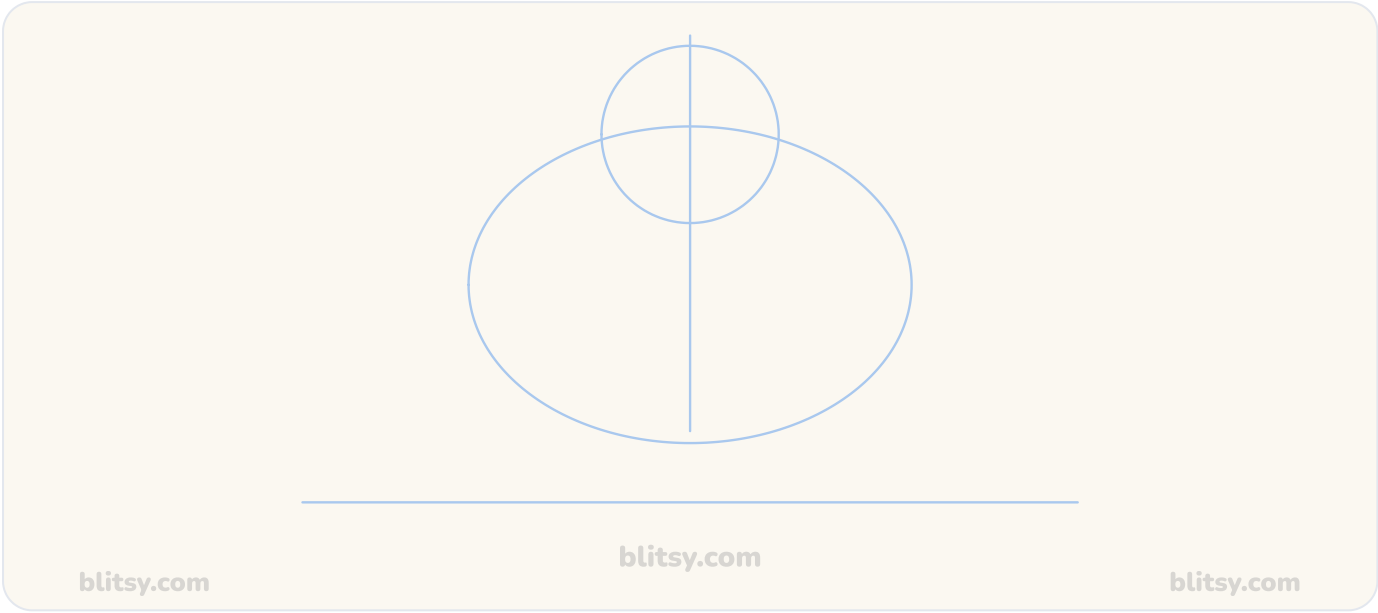
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

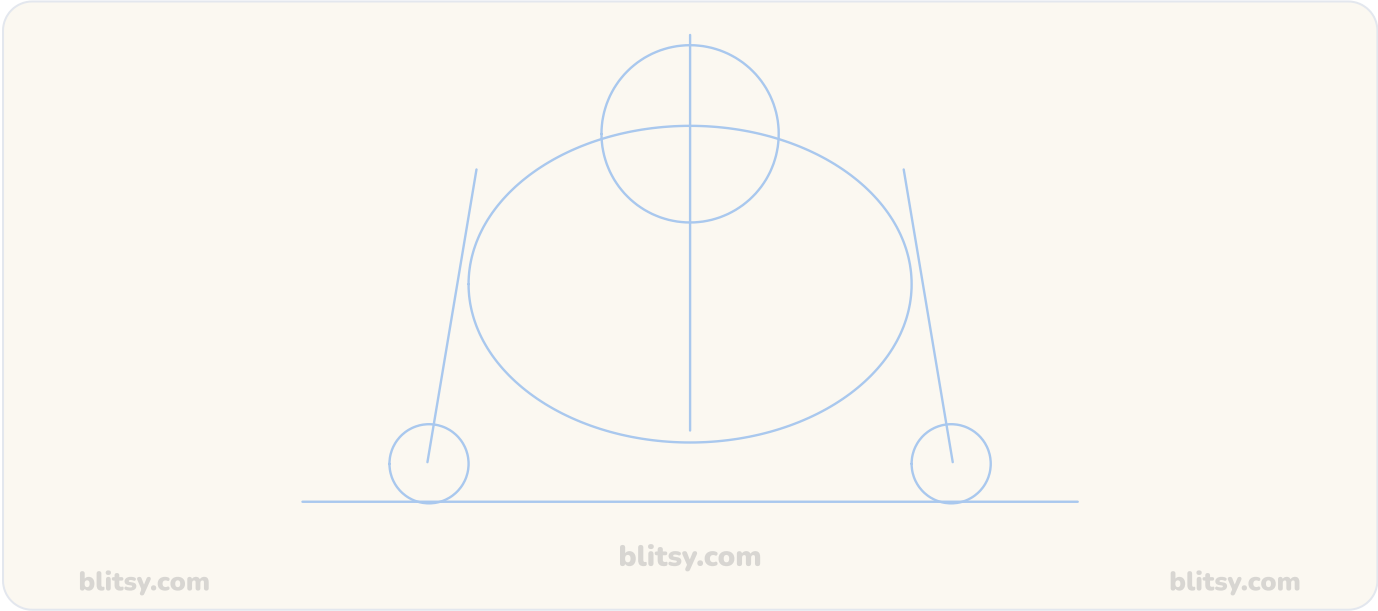
STEP 1 Sketch the head circle and body oval



Draw a light ground line across the lower part of the page and a straight line down the middle. Near the top of that center line, draw a circle for the head, then a wide oval below it that overlaps the bottom of the circle. I keep the head low on purpose. Gorillas have almost no neck, and that sunken head makes him look powerful.

💡 **Tip:** The center line is your best friend in a front view. Measure every left-side part from it, then copy it on the right.

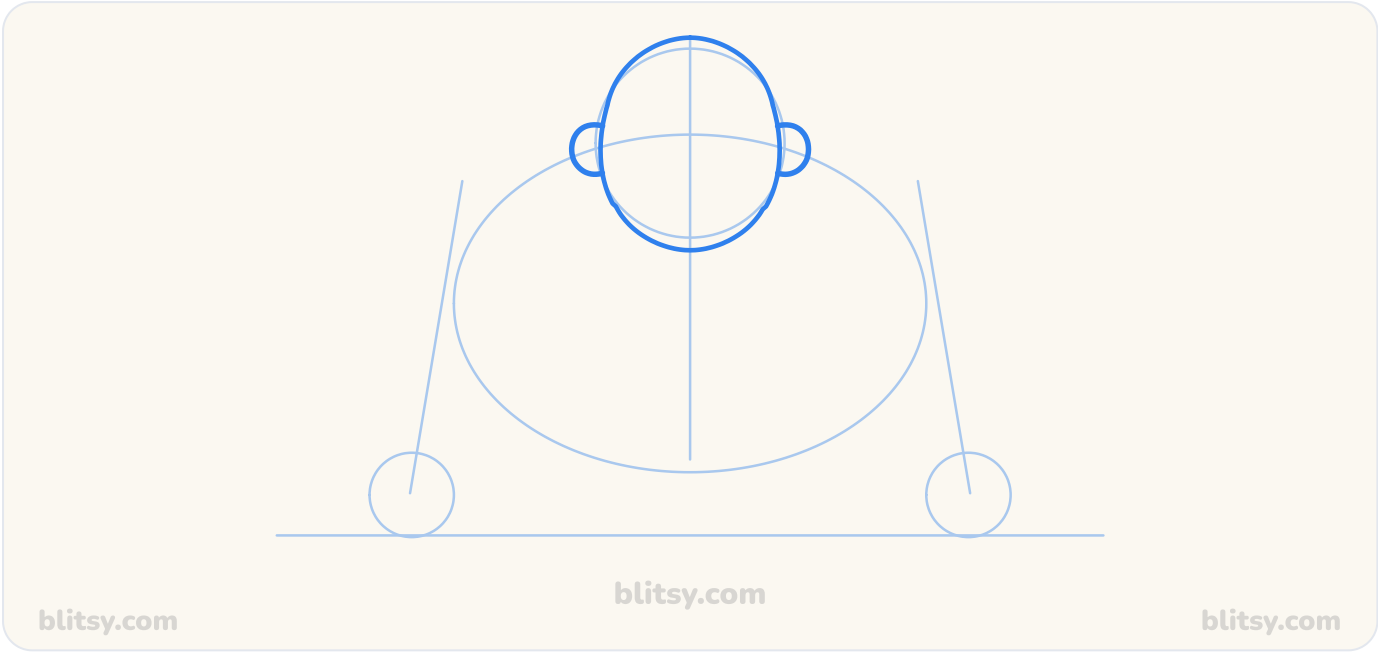
STEP 2 Add the arm lines and fist circles



From the top corners of the oval, draw two long lines that slant outward as they go down, stopping just above the ground line. At the bottom of each, draw a circle that touches the ground. These are for the fists, and they sit well outside the body oval because his arms are longer than his legs.

💡 **Tip:** Check that both fist circles sit the same distance from the center line. Lopsided fists are hard to fix later.

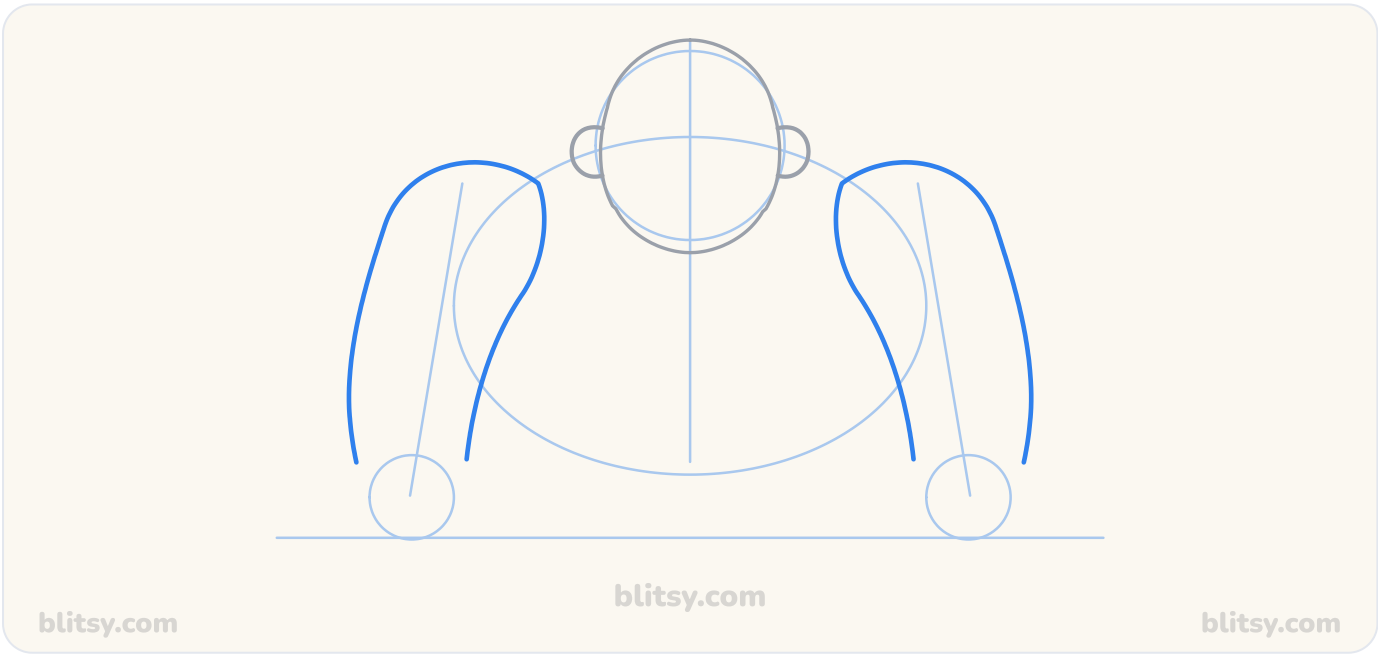
STEP 3 Draw the peaked head and small ears



Trace around the head circle, but let the top rise into a soft point. That raised crown is a real gorilla feature, and it's the quickest way to say 'ape' instead of 'bear'. Round off the chin just below the circle, then add a small half-circle ear on each side, peeking out from behind the head.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the ears tiny. Big round ears turn him into a monkey from a cartoon.

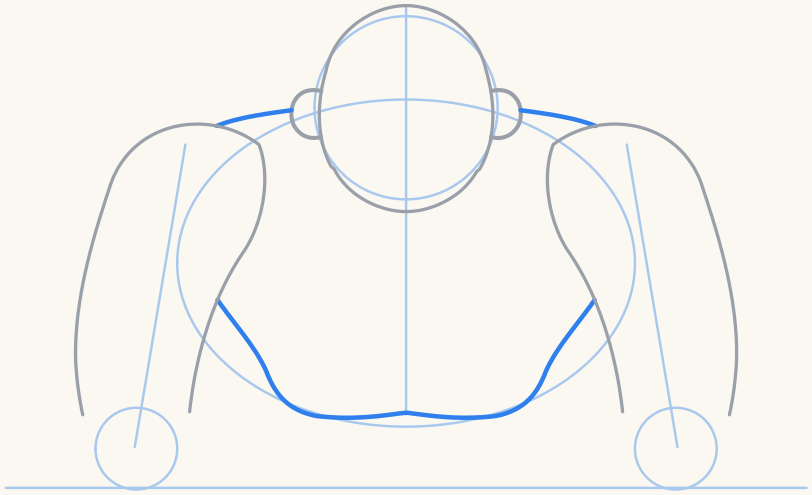
STEP 4 Draw the long, heavy arms



Each arm starts as a round shoulder bump that bulges out past the body oval. The outside edge follows your arm line down and stops just above the fist circle. The inside edge curves in toward the body, then heads down to the fist too. I make the forearms nearly as wide as the upper arms, since Kong walks on them.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one arm, pause, then draw the other while looking back at the first.

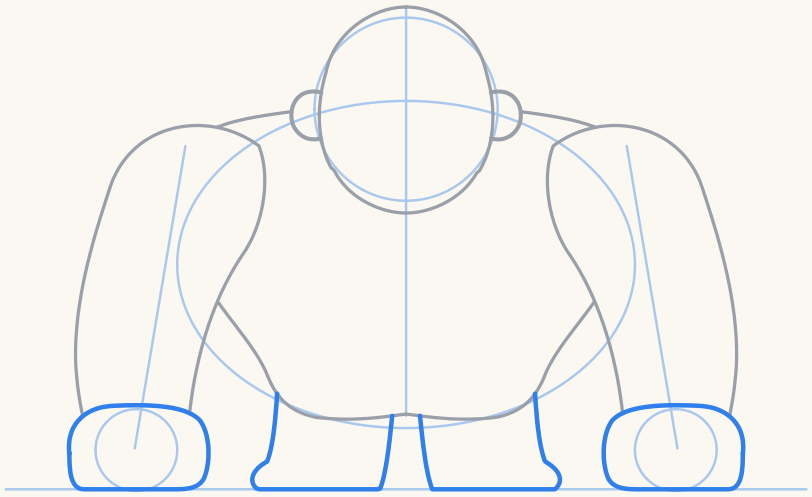
STEP 5 Add the shoulders and belly



Now connect the arms to the head with a gently sloping line from each shoulder to the side of the head, behind the ear. Then draw the belly: it starts at the inside of each arm, curves in toward the middle and ends in a wide, rounded bottom edge. The body ends up shaped like an upside-down triangle.

💡 **Tip:** Make the shoulders much wider than the hips. That top-heavy shape is what makes a gorilla read as strong.

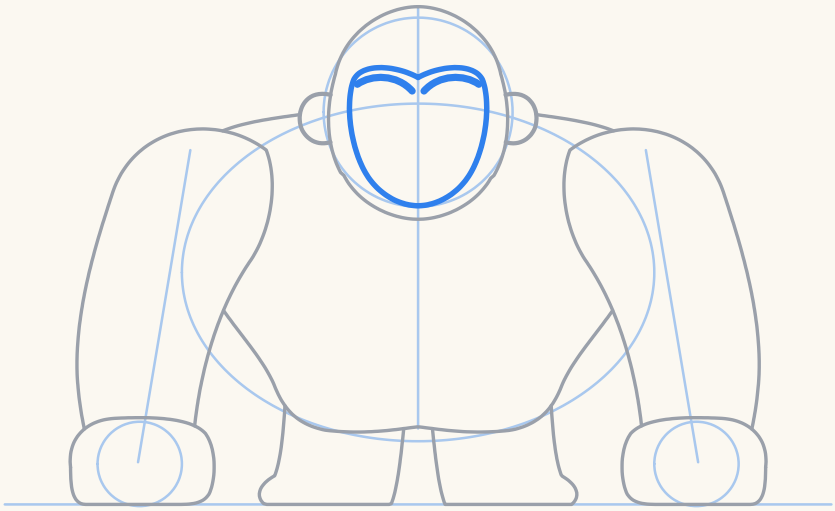
STEP 6 Draw the big fists and short legs



Around each fist circle, draw a rounded box with a flat bottom sitting on the ground line, its top tucked under the arm. Next, draw two short, thick legs under the belly with a small gap between them, and flare each one into a wide foot. Stubby legs are exactly right for a gorilla.

💡 **Tip:** If the legs come out taller than the fists, he starts to look like a person in a costume.

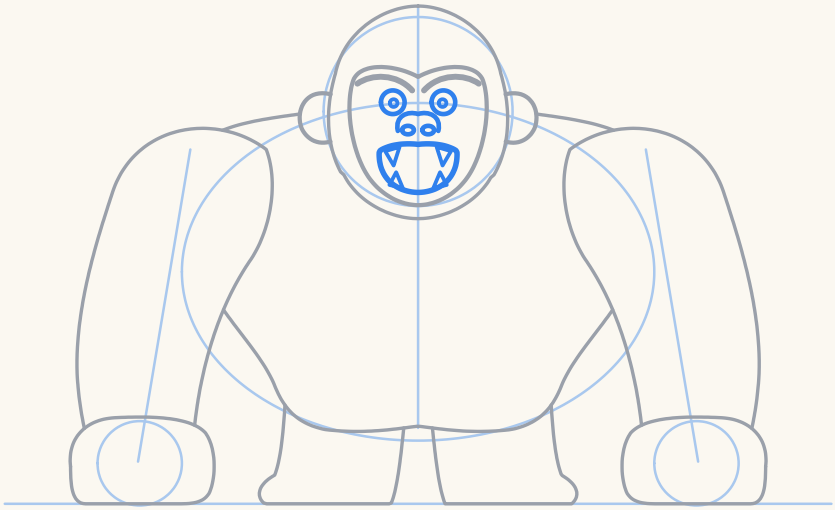
STEP 7 Add the face mask and brow



Inside the head, draw a rounded shape that fills most of the front, from just under the crown to near the chin. This is the bare skin of his face. Across the top, draw a thick brow line that dips down in the middle. When I want a scowl, that downward V does almost all of the work.

💡 **Tip:** Press a little harder on the brow than on anything else in the face.

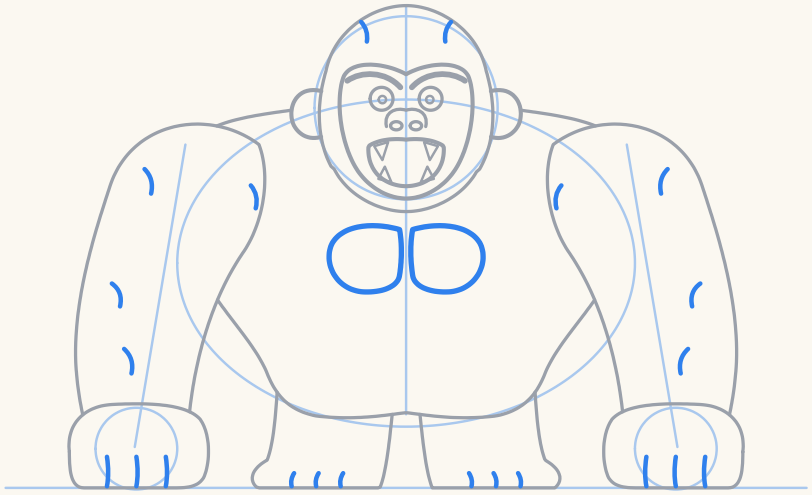
STEP 8 Draw the eyes, nose and a roaring mouth



Tuck two round eyes right under the brow, close together, each with a small pupil. Below them, draw a wide nose shaped like a low arch with two oval nostrils. For the mouth, draw a big rounded shape that's wider at the top, then add two sharp fangs hanging from the top lip and two smaller ones pointing up.

💡 **Tip:** Want a friendlier Kong? Draw the mouth as a simple closed curve and leave out the fangs.

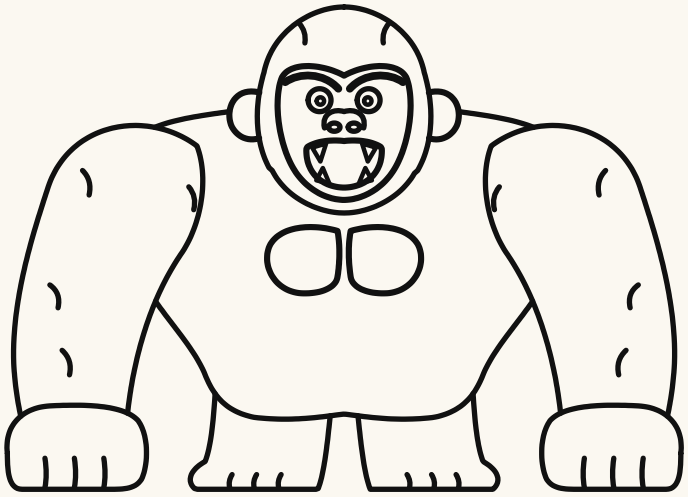
STEP 9 Add the chest plates, knuckles and fur



Draw two rounded chest plates side by side under the chin, touching at the center line. On the bottom of each fist, add three short curved lines for folded fingers, and do the same on the feet for toes. Last, scatter a few small curved strokes on the arms and shoulders, plus two on top of the head, to hint at fur.

💡 **Tip:** Five or six fur marks per arm is plenty. Too many and the coloring step gets messy.

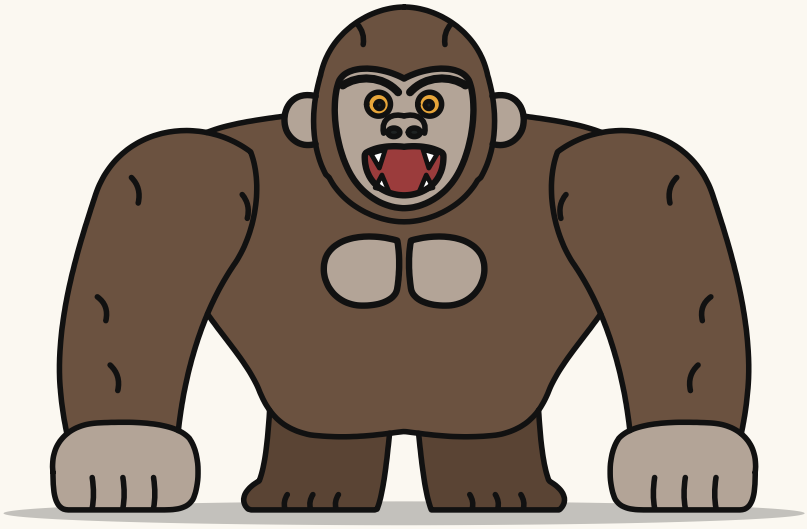
STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every line you want to keep with a black marker or fineliner. Skip the circles, the oval and the guide lines, since those were only there to help. Give the ink a minute to dry, then erase the pencil with light strokes so the paper doesn't wrinkle.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the face first while your hand is fresh. Small curves like the nostrils are the easiest place to wobble.

STEP 11 Color your King Kong



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Use a warm brown for the head, the body and both arms, and a slightly darker brown for the legs so they sit back behind the belly. The face and chest get a soft gray, and so do the ears and fists. Fill the mouth with dark red, leave the fangs white and make the eyes orange.

💡 **Tip:** Color the brown in small circles instead of straight strokes. It leaves tiny gaps that look a lot like fur.