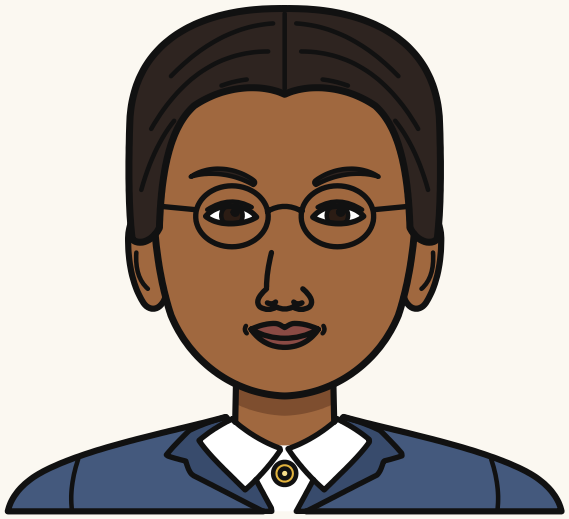
How to Draw Rosa Parks

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

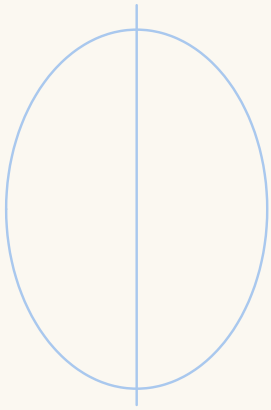
- A pencil
- A soft eraser
- A black fineliner
- Brown, black and blue colored pencils
- White paper

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 →

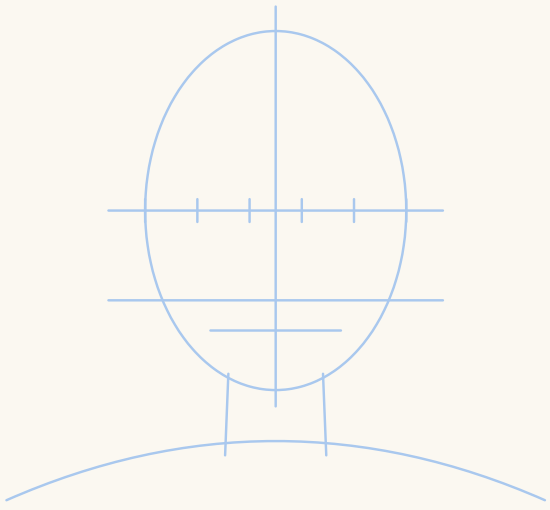
STEP 1 Sketch the head oval and a center line



Start with an egg shape a bit taller than it is wide, roughly three units across for every four down. Keep your pencil light. Then draw a straight line down the middle, from just above the oval to just below it. That line keeps the glasses and mouth centered later.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the oval with your whole arm, not just your fingers. The curve comes out smoother.

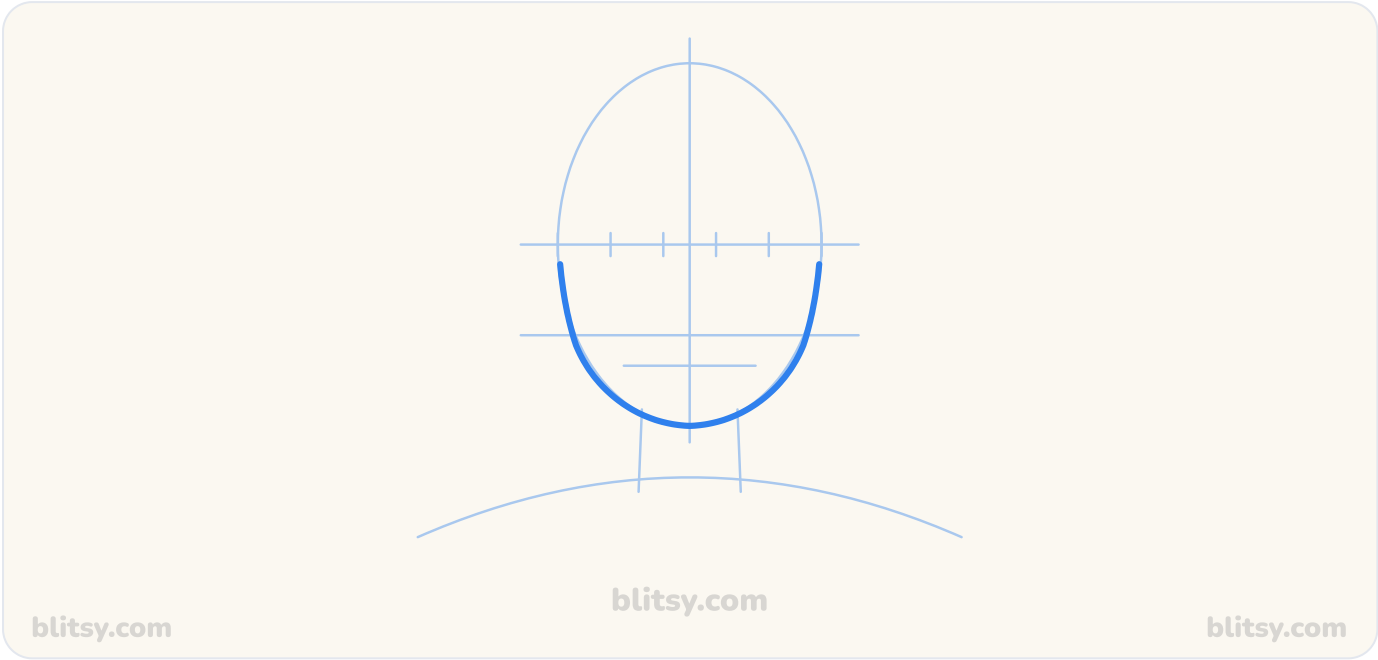
STEP 2 Add the face lines and a shoulder curve



The eye line goes exactly halfway down the oval, which feels too low at first. Put the nose line halfway between the eye line and the chin, and a short mouth line a third of the way below that. Mark five equal spaces along the eye line. Last, add two short neck lines and a wide, low arc for the shoulders.

💡 **Tip:** Measure the halfway point with your pencil held against the paper instead of guessing.

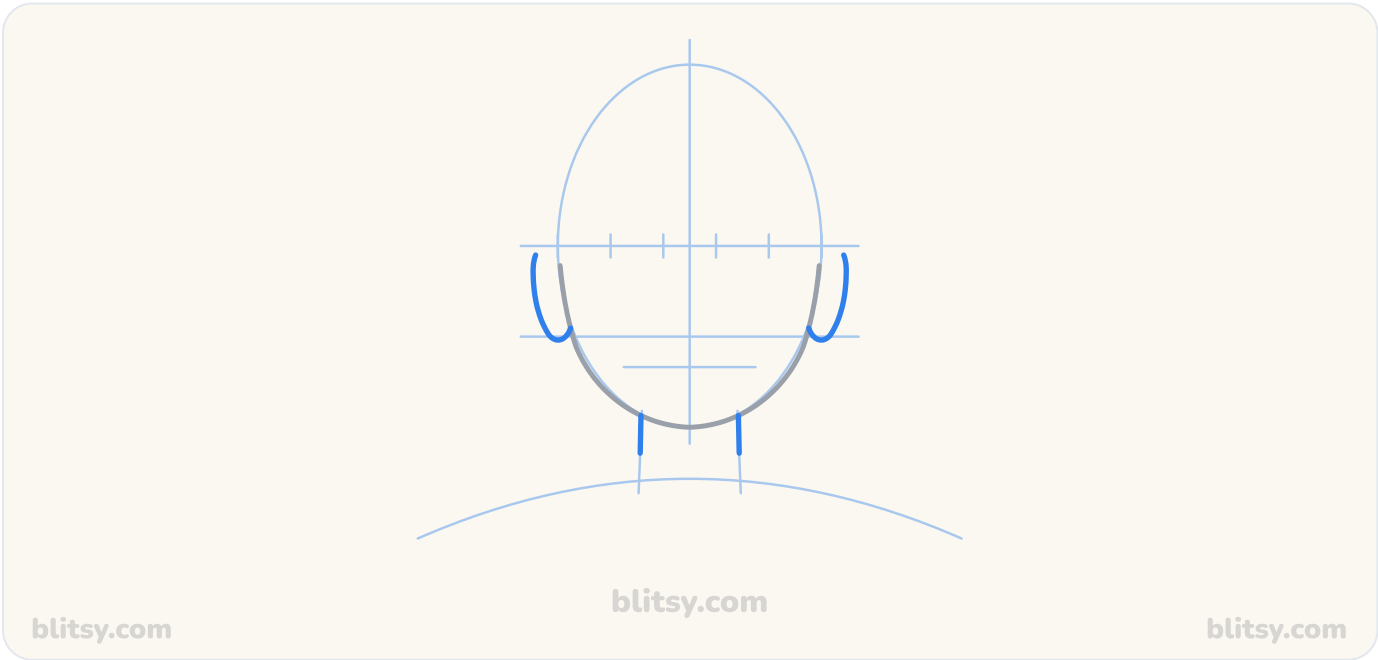
STEP 3 Draw a soft face outline



Trace the lower half of the oval, from about the eye line on one side down around the chin and up to the eye line on the other side. I keep this jaw round and gentle, with no sharp corner, because a soft curve suits her calm look. Skip the top; hair will cover it.

💡 **Tip:** If one cheek bulges more, flip the paper over and hold it to a window to spot it.

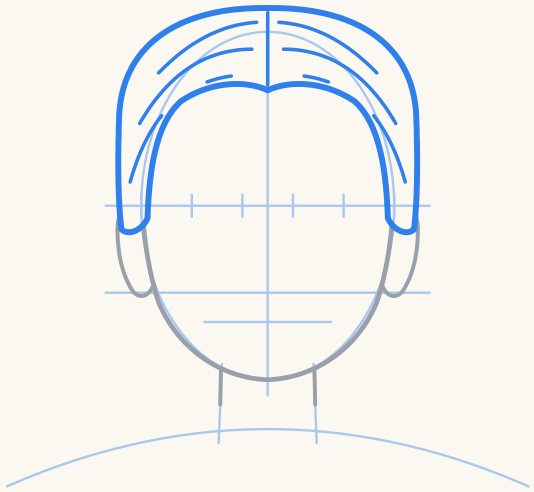
STEP 4 Add the ears and the neck



Ears sit between the eye line and the nose line. Draw each one as a narrow C shape on the side of the head; the top part will tuck under her hair in the next step, so it can stay short. Then go over the neck guides with two steady lines, a little narrower than the jaw.

💡 **Tip:** Compare the bottoms of both ears with the nose line. They should match it.

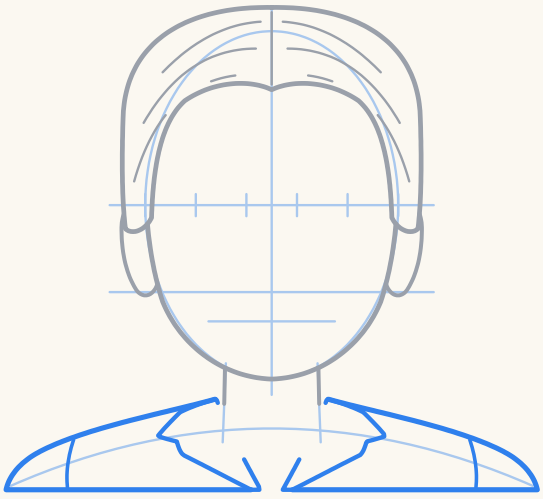
STEP 5 Draw hair parted in the middle



In many photos, Rosa Parks wears her hair parted in the center and smoothed back, so draw a rounded cap a finger's width above the oval. Bring the sides down close to the head until they cover the tops of the ears. The hairline dips into a small point at the part. Add the part itself and three combed strokes on each side.

💡 **Tip:** Curve the hair strokes away from the part, like water flowing off a roof.

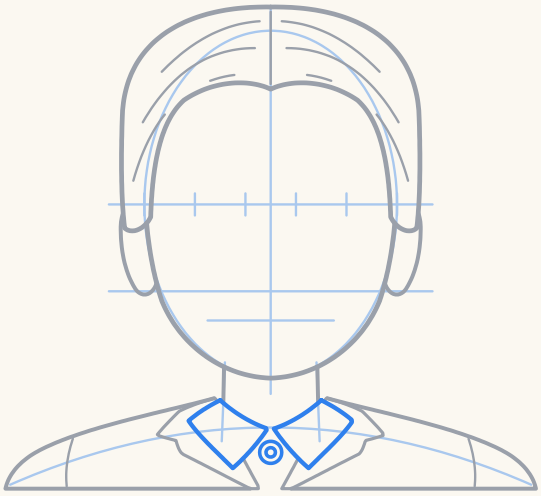
STEP 6 Shape the coat and the lapels



Starting at the neck, draw a shoulder line that slopes gently down and out on each side, then cut the bottom off flat. The two coat fronts meet low in the middle and make a V. Along that V, add a folded lapel with a small notch near each shoulder, plus a short seam line on each arm.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the shoulders wide, about twice the width of the head. Narrow ones make the portrait look childish.

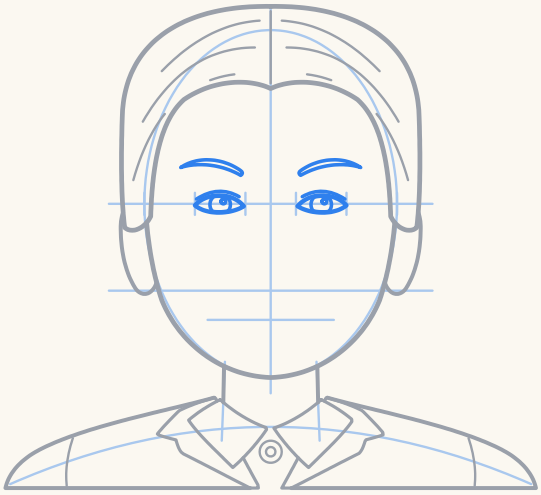
STEP 7 Add the blouse collar and the brooch



Her white collar lies on top of the coat. Draw two pointed flaps that start at the sides of the neck, meet in the center, and point down and outward. Below the spot where they meet, draw a small circle with a dot inside for the brooch. I keep it modest in size; a large pin pulls attention away from the face.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one collar flap, then copy its angle on the other side before you add the brooch.

STEP 8 Draw calm eyes and soft brows



Use the second and fourth spaces on the eye line for two almond shapes. Each iris should be tucked slightly under the upper lid, which gives a relaxed, steady gaze instead of a startled one. Add a pupil, a tiny highlight and a light lid curve above. The brows are thin, gentle arches a little above each eye.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the white highlight on the same side in both eyes so she looks in one direction.

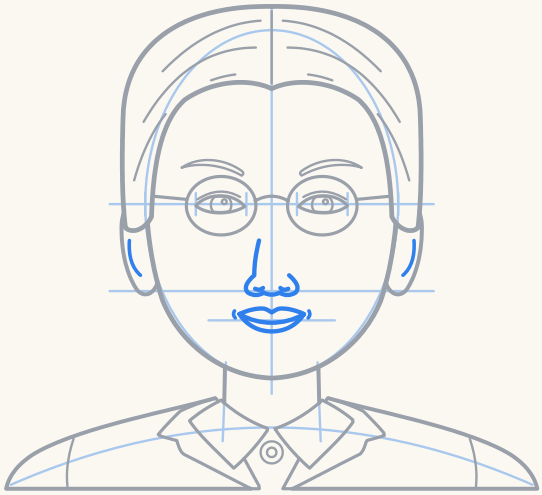
STEP 9 Add the small round glasses



Center a slightly wide circle on each eye. Most beginners draw the lenses too big here; the top edge should stay below the brows and the bottom should stop well above the nose line. Join the lenses with a small curved bridge, then draw one straight arm from each lens back to the hair.

💡 **Tip:** Trace around a coin lightly if your circles keep going lopsided.

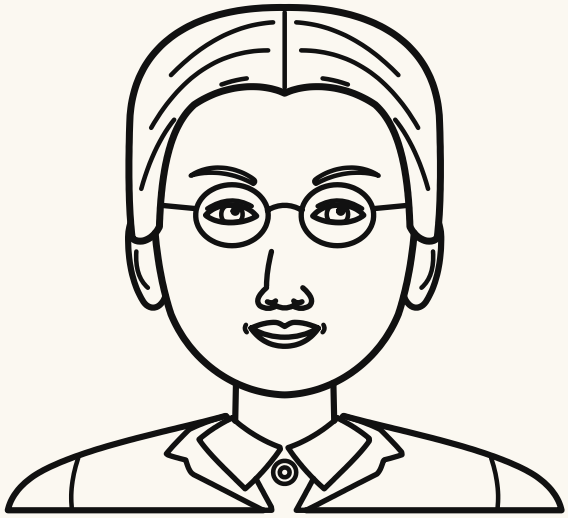
STEP 10 Draw the nose and a gentle smile



Put a short, soft line down from between the lenses, then draw the base of the nose on the nose line with two rounded sides and two small nostrils. For the mouth, the line between the lips curves up slightly at the ends. Add a thin upper lip, a slightly fuller lower lip, and a tiny curve at each corner of the smile.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the mouth corners under the centers of the eyes. Going wider changes her expression.

STEP 11 Ink the portrait and erase the guides

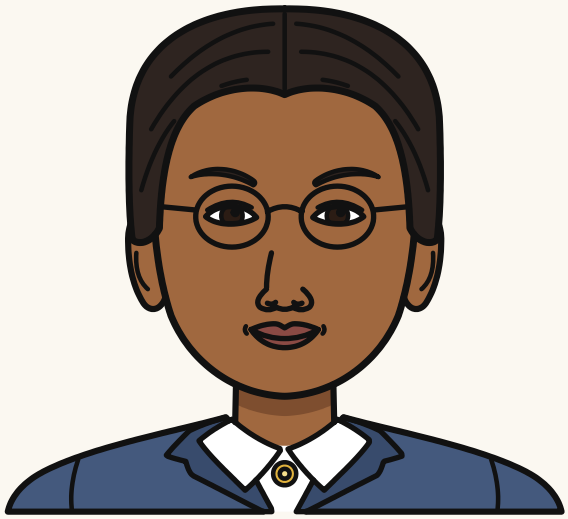


blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Go over every line you want to keep with a black fineliner. Take your time on the glasses, because wobbly circles stand out on a face. Give the ink a minute to dry, then erase the oval, the center line, the shoulder arc and the face lines.

💡 **Tip:** Ink from the top of the page downward so your hand never rests on wet lines.

STEP 12 Color the portrait



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Fill the face, ears and neck with a warm medium brown, then add a darker brown band on the neck right under the chin. Color the hair and brows black. The coat is blue with darker blue lapels; keep the collar white and the brooch gold. Finish the lips with a soft rose brown.

💡 **Tip:** Build the skin color in two light layers. One heavy layer usually looks streaky.