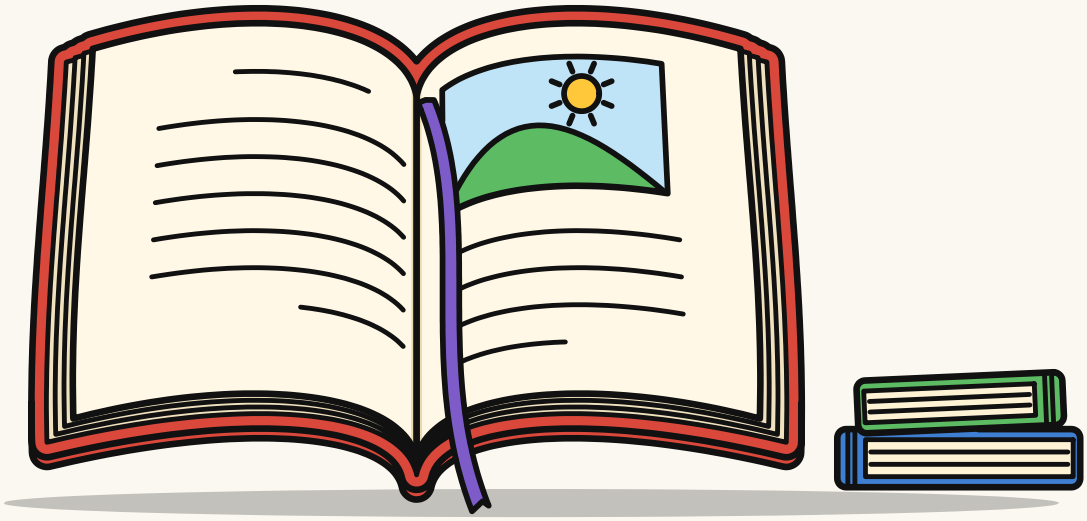
How to Draw a Book

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

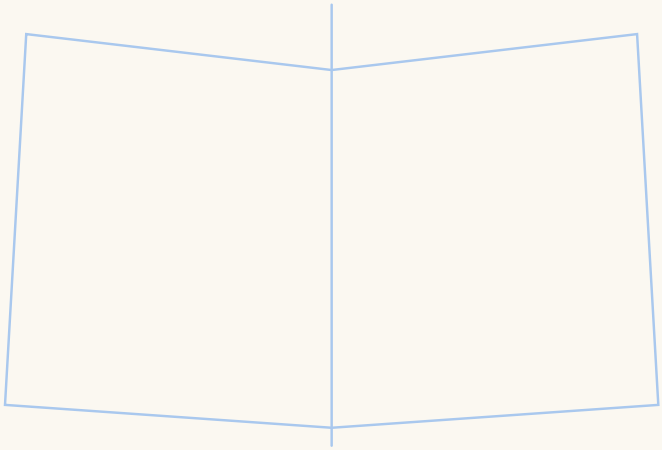
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

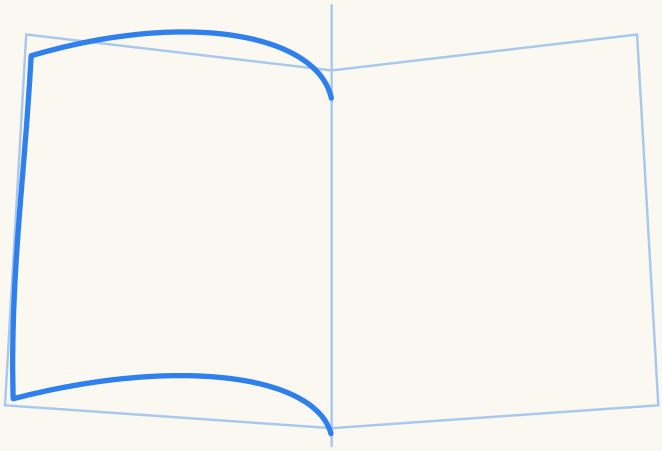
STEP 1 Draw a spine line and a wide box



Draw one light vertical line in the middle of the left half of your paper. That's the spine. Around it, sketch a wide box whose top edge dips down to the spine from both sides, like a very flat V, and whose bottom does the same. Make the bottom a little wider than the top, so the book looks like it's lying on a table.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a hand's width of empty paper on the right. The little stack of books goes there later.

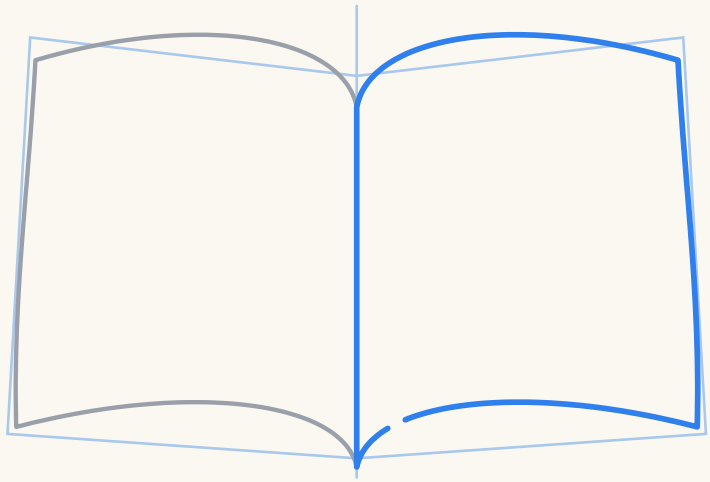
STEP 2 Draw the curved left page



Start at the spine, a little below the top of your box. Pull the top edge up in a quick hump, then let it run long and gentle down to the outer corner. The outer edge goes almost straight down. The bottom edge copies the top: it rises out of the spine and flattens toward the corner. I tell kids the page looks like a wave that just broke.

💡 **Tip:** Make the hump near the spine, not in the middle of the page. That's where real paper lifts.

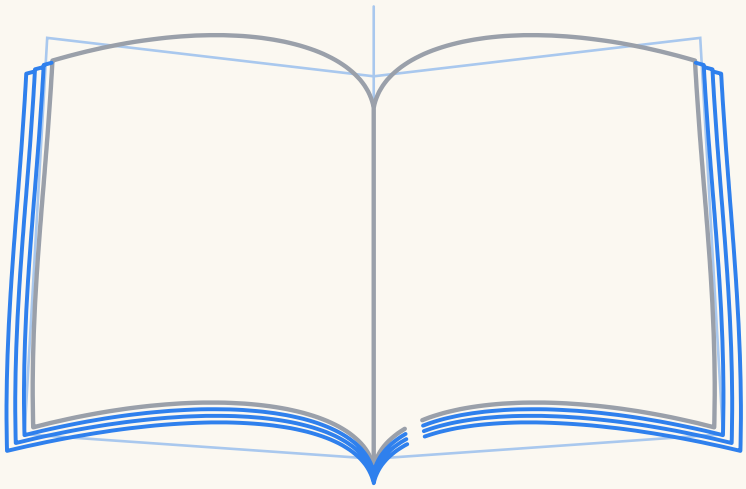
STEP 3 Mirror it for the right page



Repeat the same shape on the other side so the two pages meet at the spine. The tops form a soft dip in the middle and the bottoms meet in a little point. Trace the spine line firmly between them, and check that both outer edges lean out by about the same amount.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper upside down for a second. Lopsided pages are much easier to spot that way.

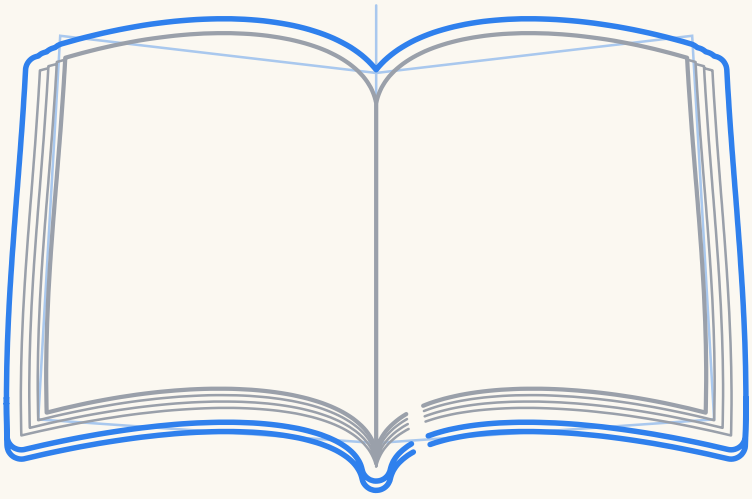
STEP 4 Add the fanned page edges



More pages sit under each top page, peeking out along the outside and the bottom. Draw three thin lines that follow each page outline, each a little farther out than the last, all curving down to meet near the bottom of the spine. Skip the top, since the top page hides that part.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the gaps between these lines thin and even, or the pages look like cardboard.

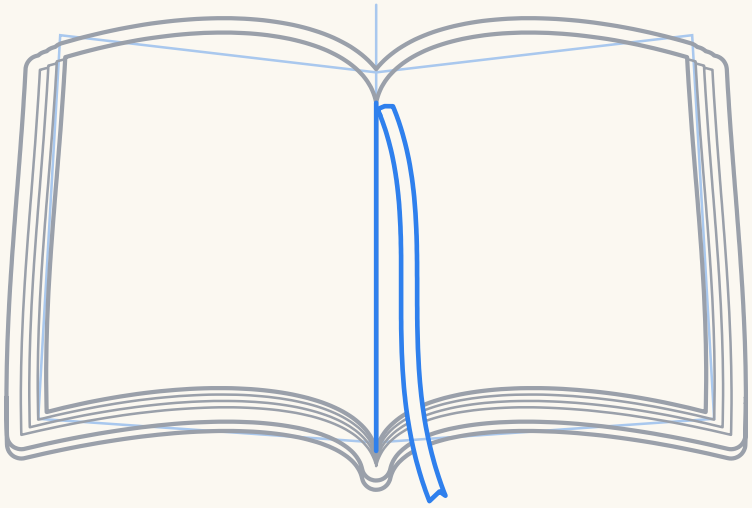
STEP 5 Draw the hard cover underneath



The cover is a bit bigger than the pages, so draw one smooth outline all the way around, just outside the last page line, with slightly rounded corners. Add a second line a little below it at the bottom. That shows the thickness of the hard cover, which only shows along the bottom from this angle.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the cover rim the same thickness all the way round. A thin top and thick sides looks wrong at once.

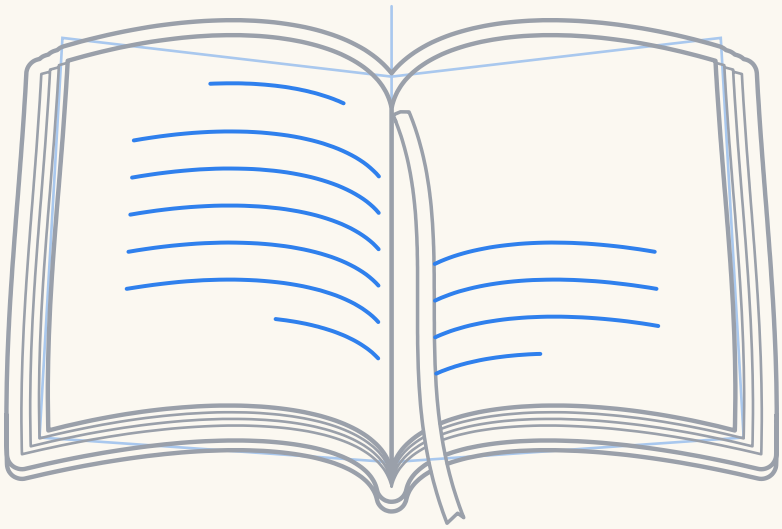
STEP 6 Add the crease and a ribbon bookmark



Go over the spine once more so the crease stands out. For the ribbon, draw two close lines that start at the top of the crease, swing gently over the right page and hang down past the cover. Cut the end into a V notch. The ribbon sits on top, so skip any lines underneath it.

💡 **Tip:** Give the ribbon one easy S bend. A ribbon that's ruler straight looks like a stick.

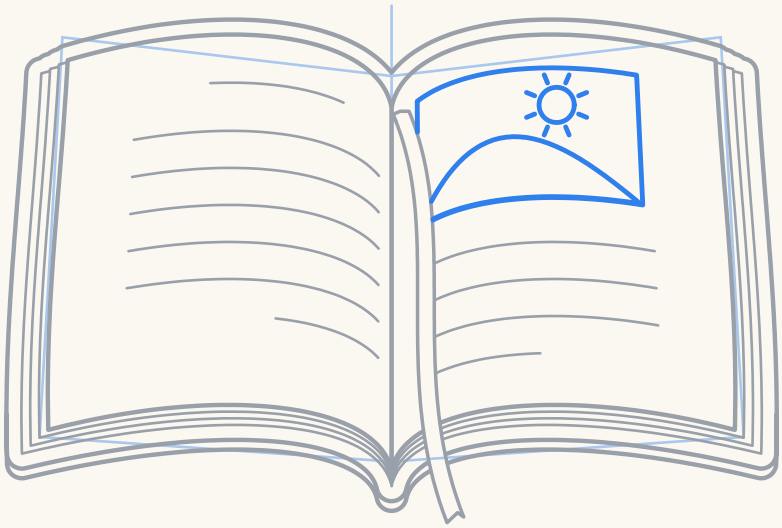
STEP 7 Draw text lines that bend with the paper



This step sells the curve. On the left page, add a short title line near the top and six longer lines below it, each bending downward as it nears the spine. Make the last one shorter, like the end of a paragraph. On the right page, add four lines in the lower half, clear of the ribbon.

💡 **Tip:** Space the lines evenly first and worry about straightness later. Even spacing matters more.

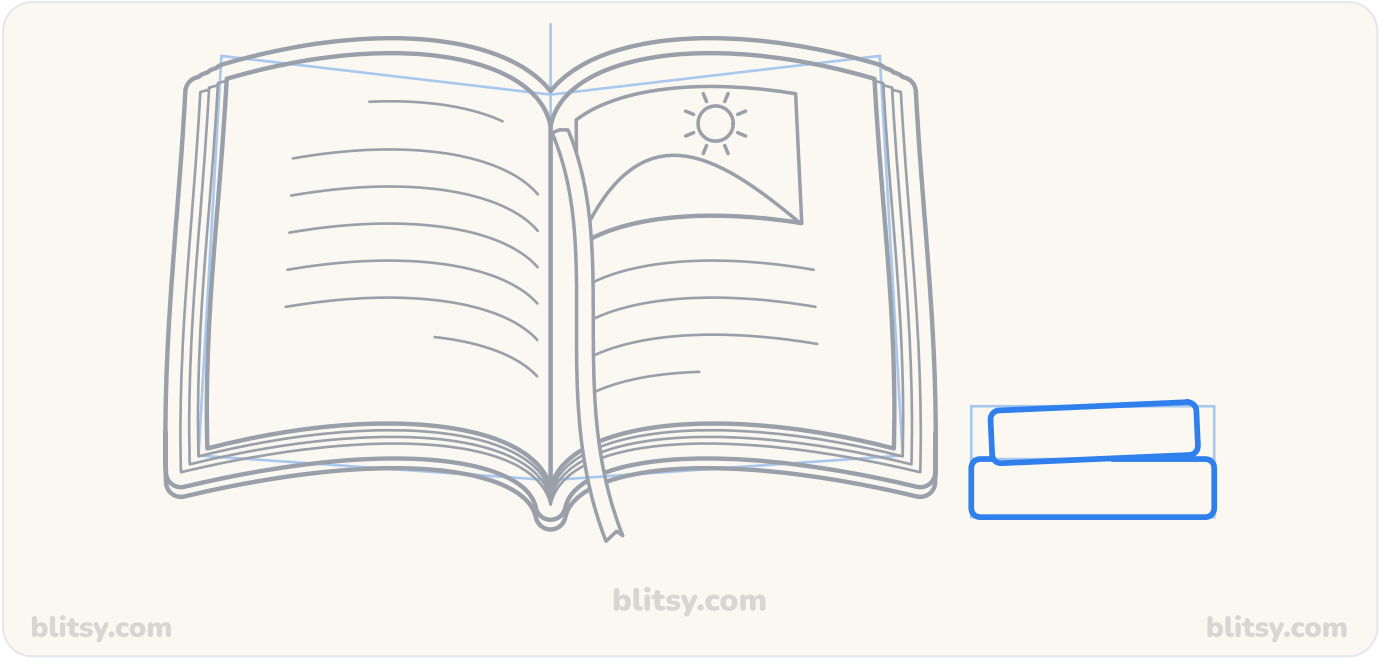
STEP 8 Add a little picture doodle



Every storybook needs a picture. In the top half of the right page, draw a small frame whose top and bottom curve like the text lines. Inside, draw a rounded hill and a small sun with short rays. Keep it simple, so it reads as a picture in the book and doesn't compete with the book itself.

💡 **Tip:** Anything works here: a cat, a castle or a rocket. Just keep it inside the frame.

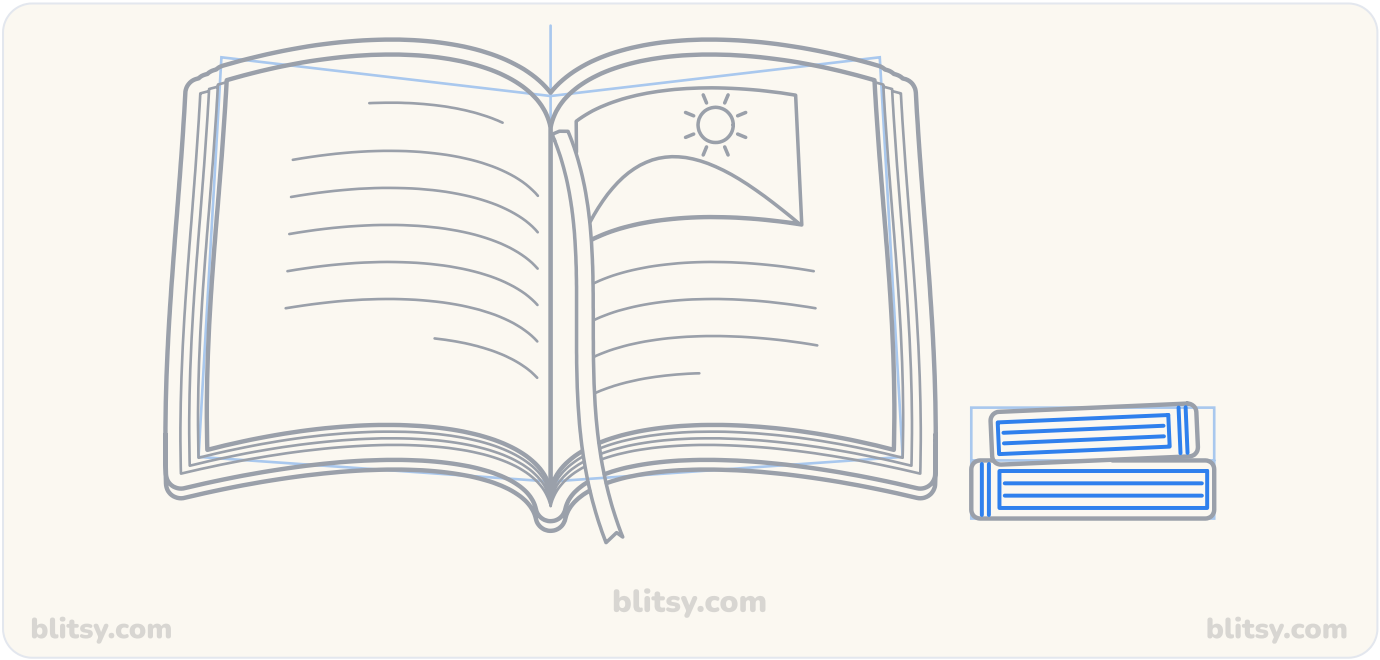
STEP 9 Draw a stack of two closed books



In the empty space on the right, draw a long rounded rectangle lying on the table for the bottom book, seen from the side. Put a shorter one on top and tilt it very slightly so the stack looks casual. Line up the stack's bottom with the open book so everything sits on one table.

💡 **Tip:** Smaller kids can skip the stack. The open book is the main subject.

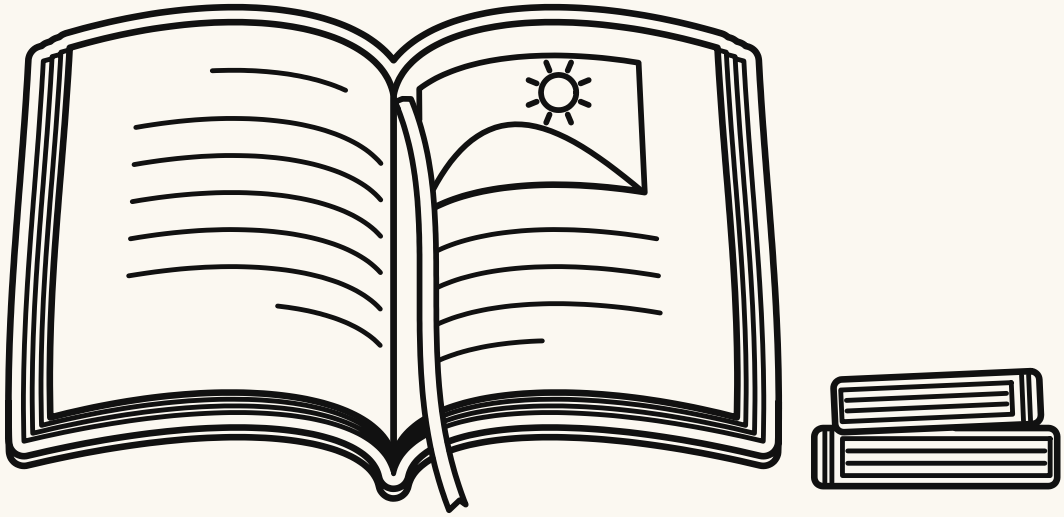
STEP 10 Add pages and spines to the stack



Inside each closed book, draw a slightly smaller rectangle for the pages, leaving a strip of cover above, below and at one end. Add two thin lines through each page block. At the cover end, add two short upright lines for the spine. I put the spines on opposite sides, the way books really pile up.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the cover strips thin. Fat covers make the books look like boxes.

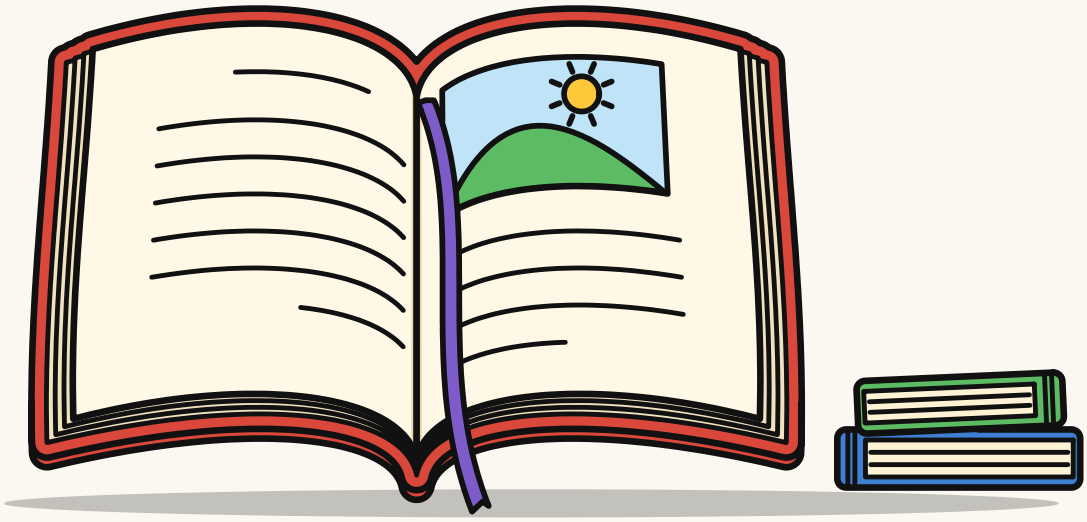
STEP 11 Ink the book and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with your fineliner. I start with the two big page outlines, then the edges and cover, and save the text lines for last because they wobble most easily. Skip the guide box and the extra spine line. Let the ink dry, then erase all the pencil.

💡 **Tip:** For the curved page edges, pull the pen toward you rather than pushing it away.

STEP 12 Color your book



Color the cover red and the top pages cream. Light tan goes on the fanned edges and the thin strip by the spine, which shades the gutter. The ribbon is purple. In the picture, the sky is light blue, the hill green and the sun yellow. The bottom closed book is blue, the top one green, with cream pages.

💡 **Tip:** Color the cream pages very lightly. Pressing hard makes them look yellow and dirty.