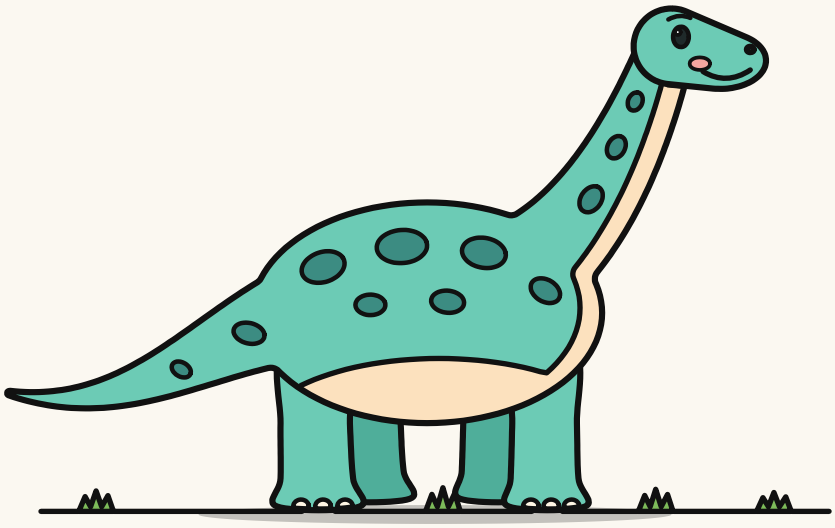
How to Draw a Dinosaur

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

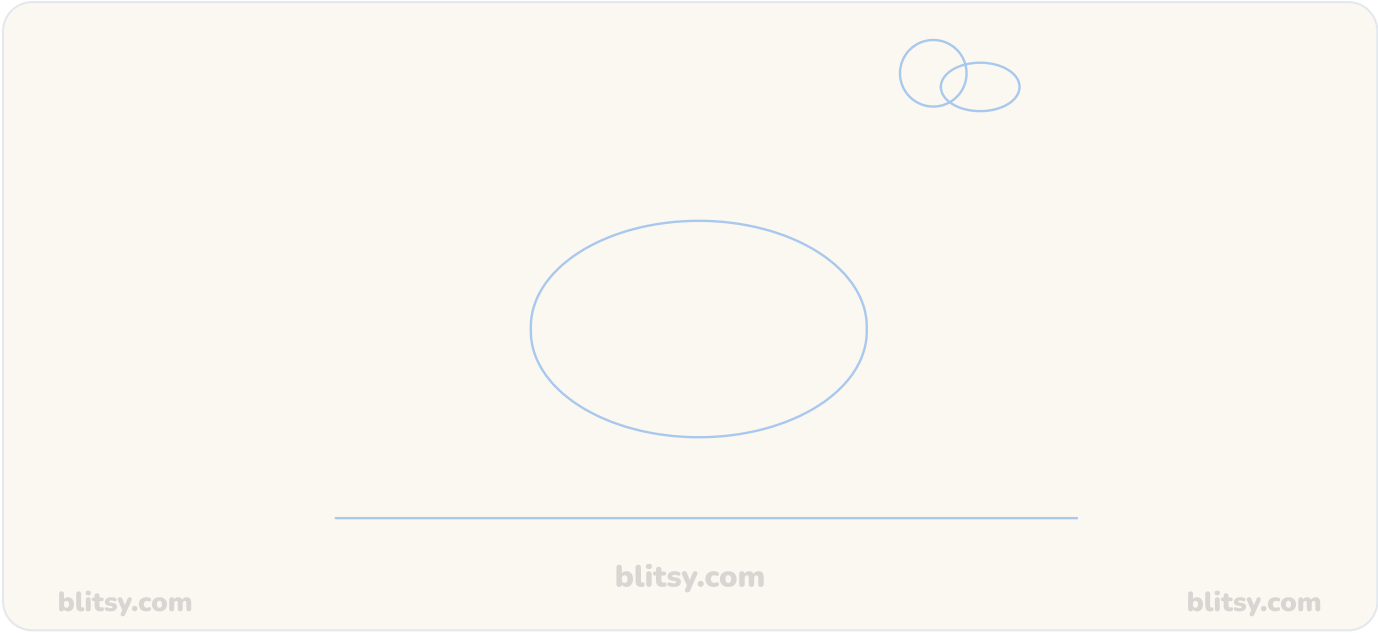
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

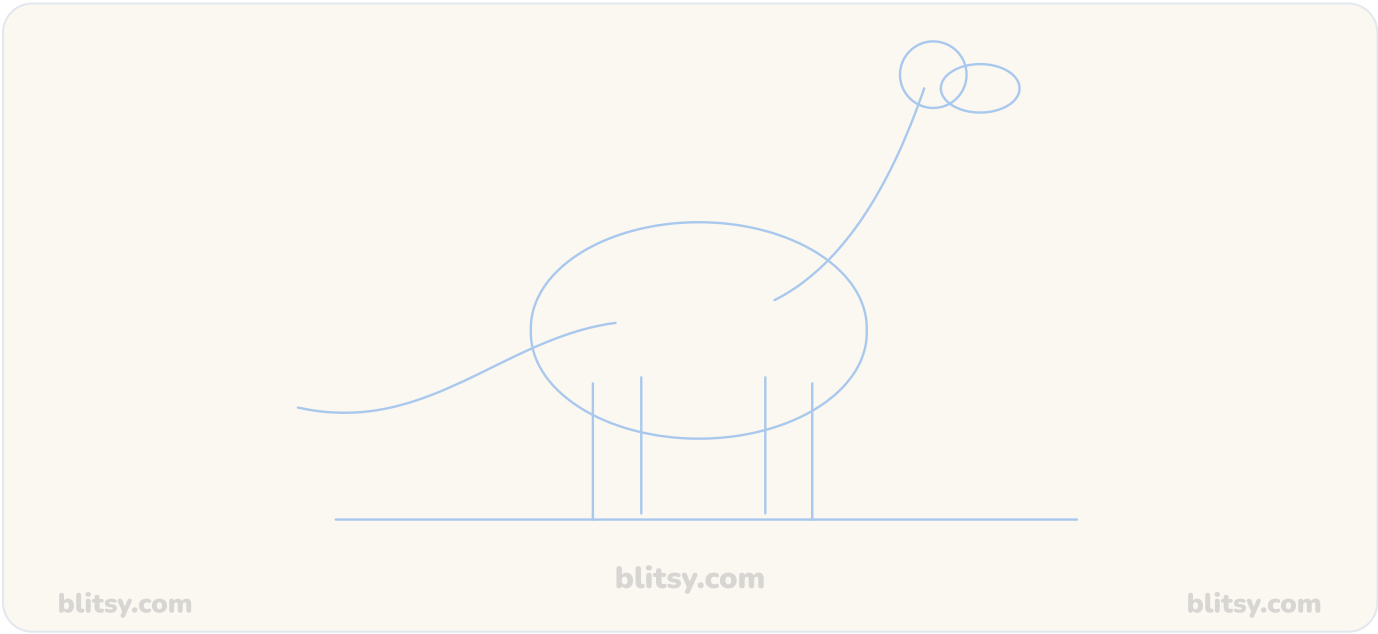
STEP 1 Sketch a big body oval and two head circles



Draw a light ground line low on the page. Just above it, a little left of center, sketch a wide oval for the body. It should be clearly wider than it is tall. Up in the top right corner, far from the body, draw a small circle with a flatter oval overlapping its right side. That pair becomes the head and the snout.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a big gap between the head circles and the body. That empty space is where the long neck goes.

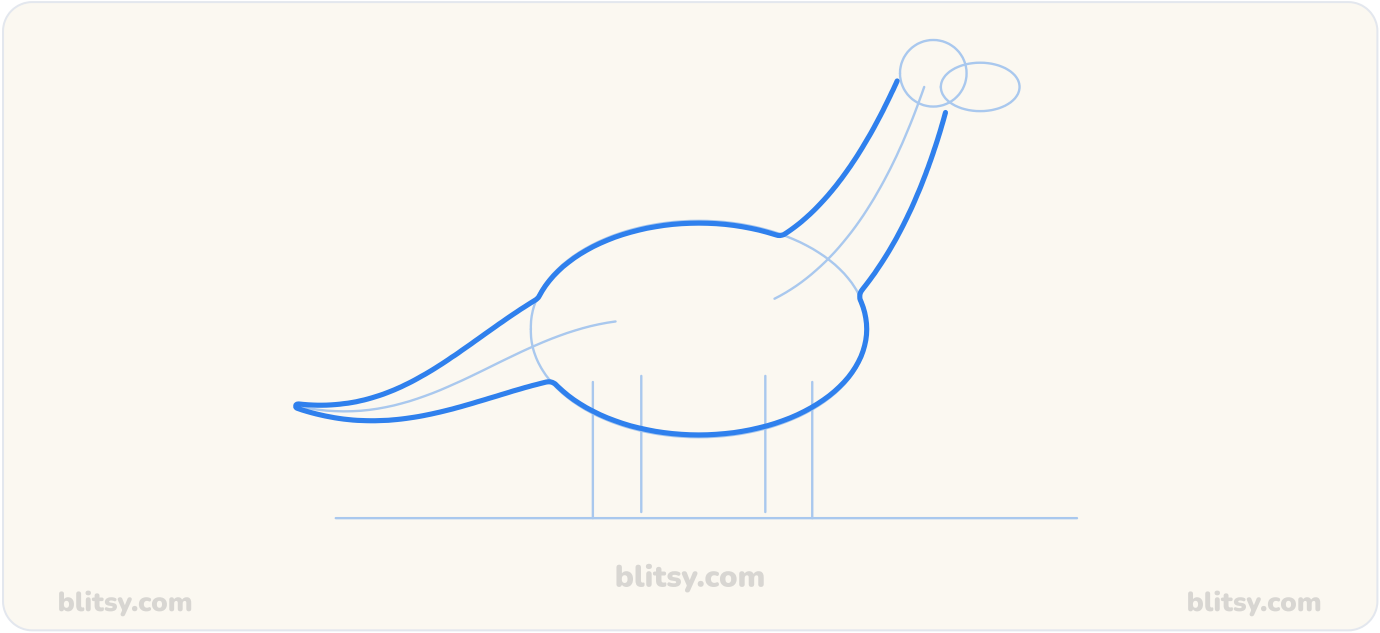
STEP 2 Add guide lines for the neck, the tail and the legs



From the top right of the body, draw one curved line up to the head circle. Then sweep a second line out of the left side of the body, dipping down and ending in a long point near the ground. Finish with four short vertical lines under the body, two near the front and two near the back.

💡 **Tip:** Make the neck line bend like a gentle letter C. A perfectly straight neck looks stiff.

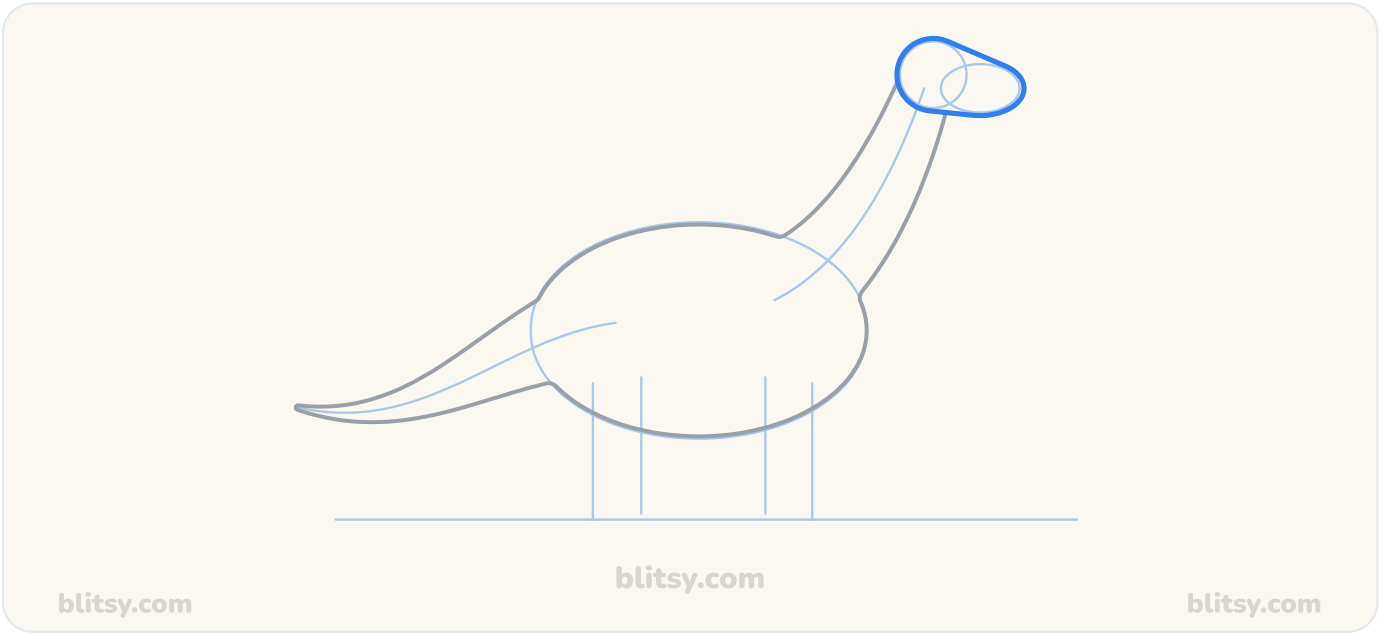
STEP 3 Outline the body, the long neck and the tail



Now trace one smooth outline around everything. Follow the top of the oval, then run up both sides of the neck guide, wide at the shoulders and narrow near the head. On the left, draw the tail as two lines that meet in a sharp point. I stop the neck lines just short of the head, since the head outline will close them off in the next step.

💡 **Tip:** Let the bottom of the tail line drop below the oval a little. It makes the tail look heavy and real.

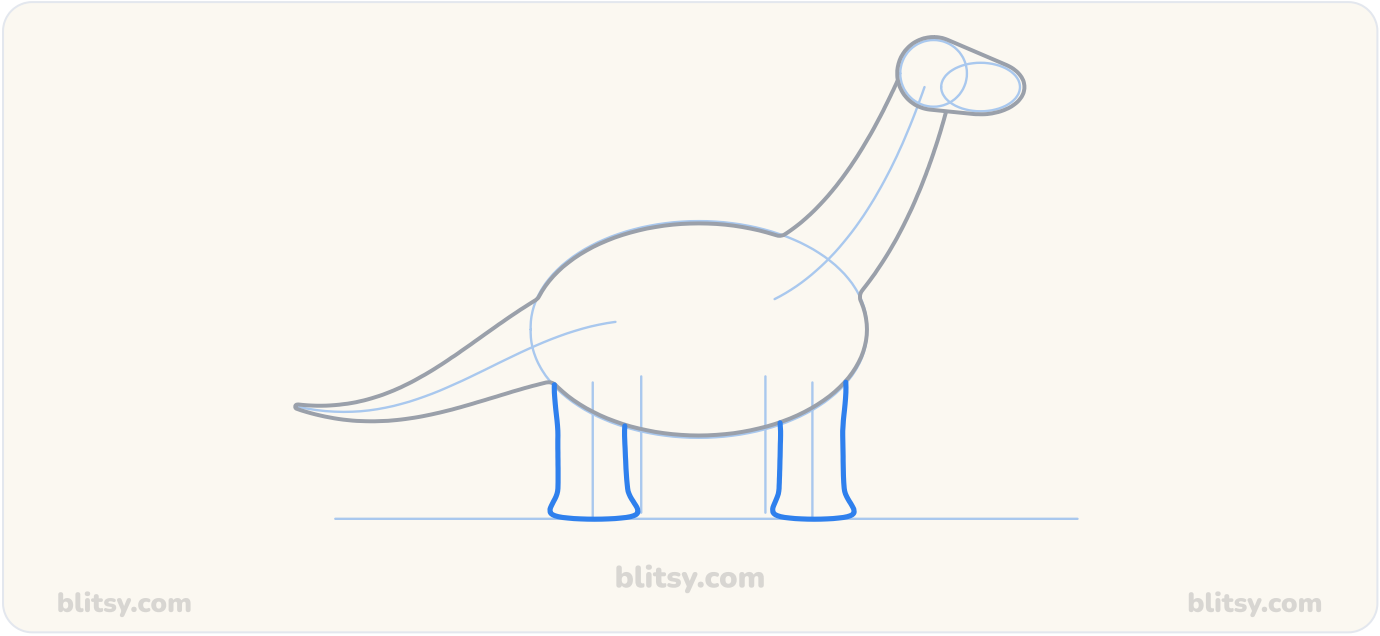
STEP 4 Draw a small round head



Wrap a single outline around both head circles, round at the back and a bit flatter at the snout. Keep it small. Long-neck dinosaurs have tiny heads compared with their huge bodies, and that contrast is exactly what makes them read as dinosaurs and not as some odd horse.

💡 **Tip:** If the head looks bigger than one of the back spots will be, shrink it.

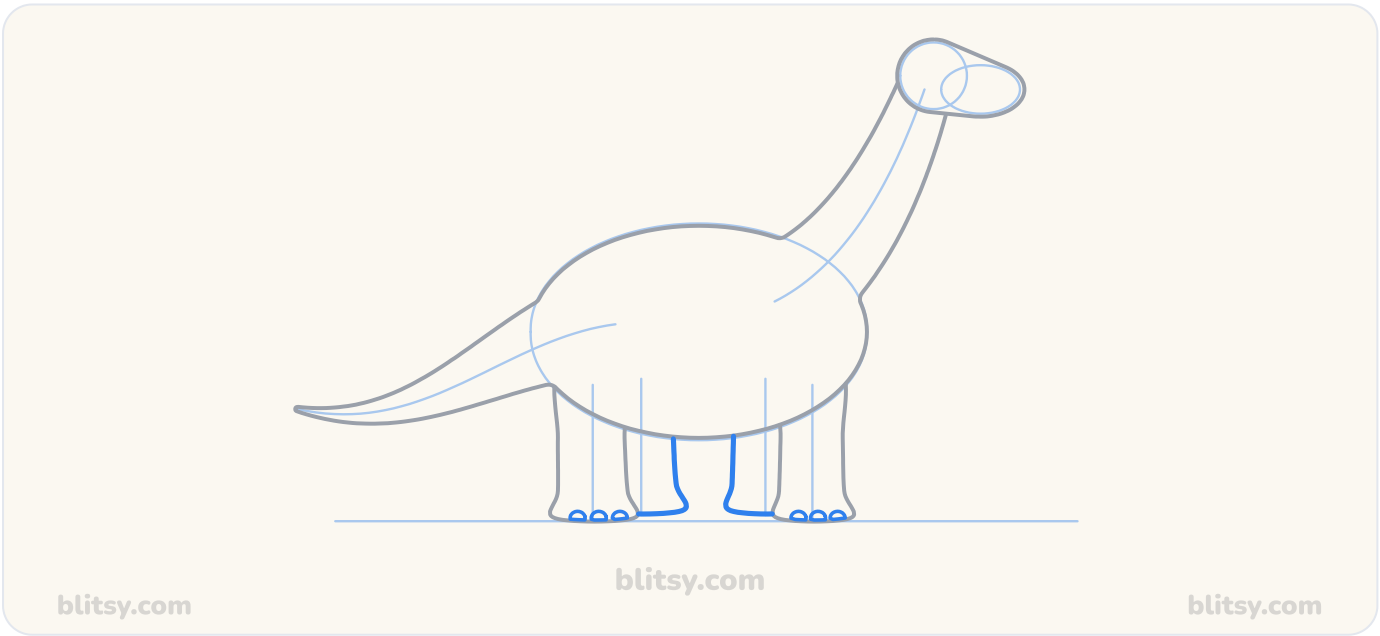
STEP 5 Draw the two legs on the near side



Over the front and back pairs of guide lines, draw one leg each: thick, straight columns that come down from the belly to the ground. Make the bottoms flare out a touch so the feet look flat and heavy. These are the legs closest to us, so I draw their full outline first.

💡 **Tip:** Think tree trunks, not sticks. A dinosaur this size needs legs as wide as your thumb on the paper.

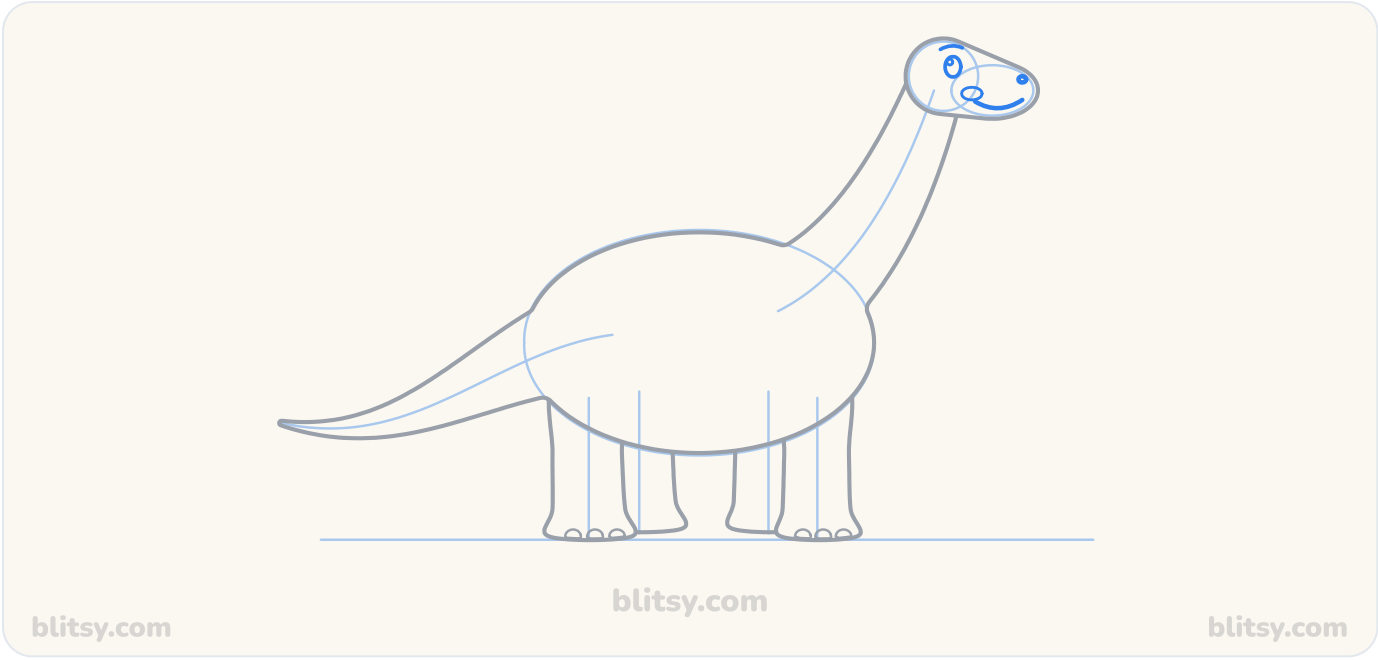
STEP 6 Add the far legs and round toenails



The other two legs peek out from behind. Draw only the part you can see between and beside the near legs, slightly higher so they look farther away. Then add three small half circles along the bottom of each near foot for the toenails.

💡 **Tip:** Don't draw the far legs where the near legs cover them. Overlap is what gives the dinosaur its depth.

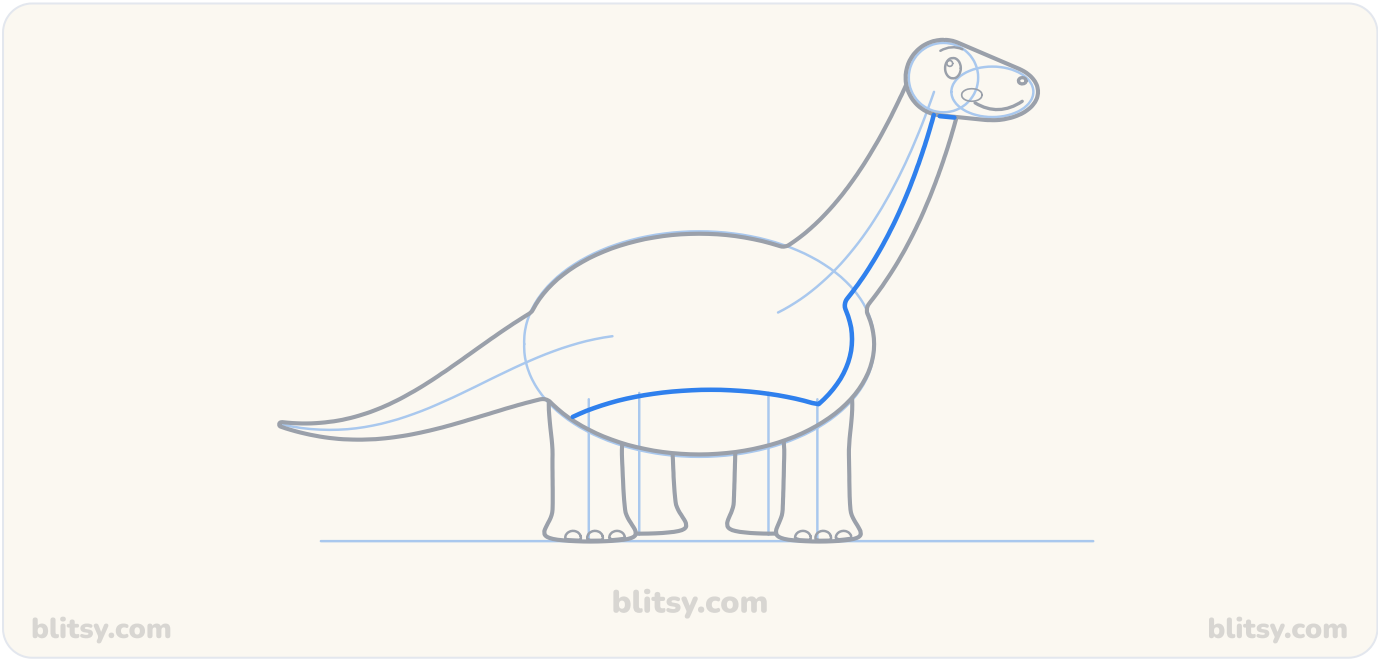
STEP 7 Give it an eye, a nostril and a smile



Place one oval eye near the top of the round part of the head, with a little shine circle inside and a short brow above. Put a dot for the nostril at the tip of the snout. A long, gentle curve under the snout is the smile, and a small oval on the cheek adds a happy blush.

💡 **Tip:** A smile that turns up at the end looks friendlier than one that just runs flat.

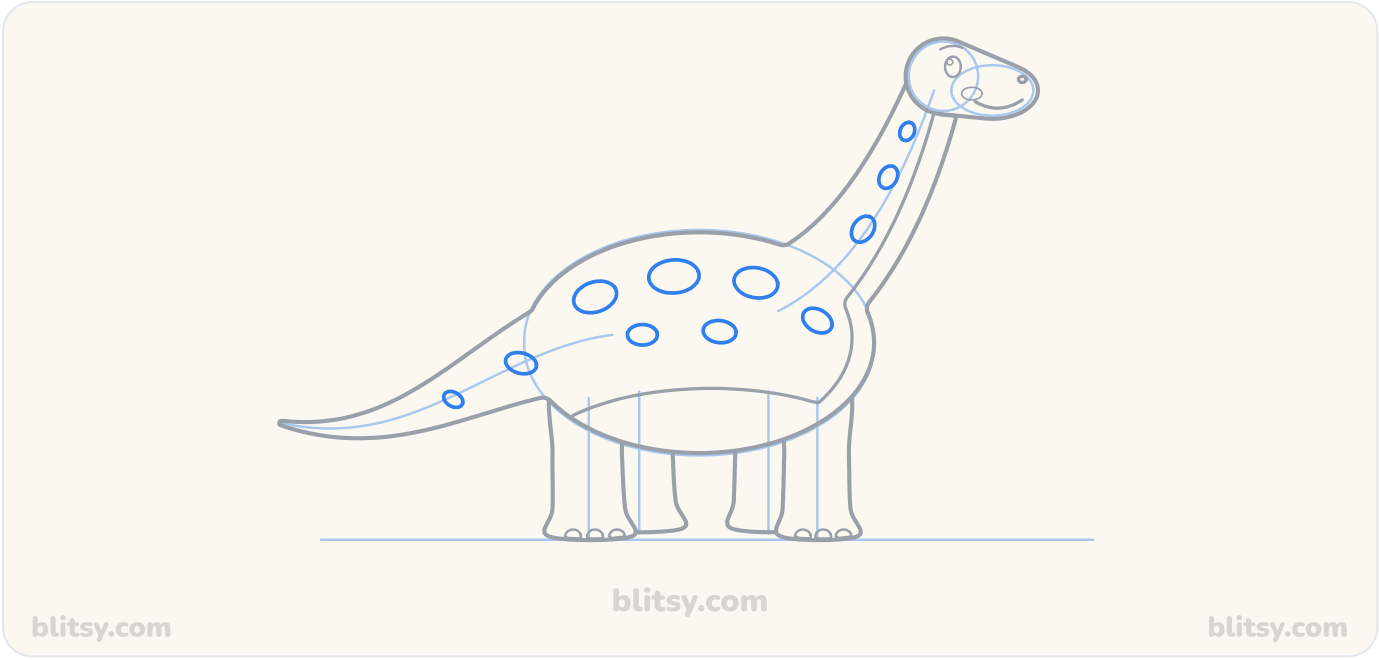
STEP 8 Draw the belly line up the throat



Draw a curve across the bottom of the body, about a quarter of the way up, from the back leg to the front. At the chest, turn the line upward and follow the front of the neck, staying close to its edge, until it reaches the head. This band gets a lighter color later.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the throat band narrow. I've found a wide stripe makes the neck look flat.

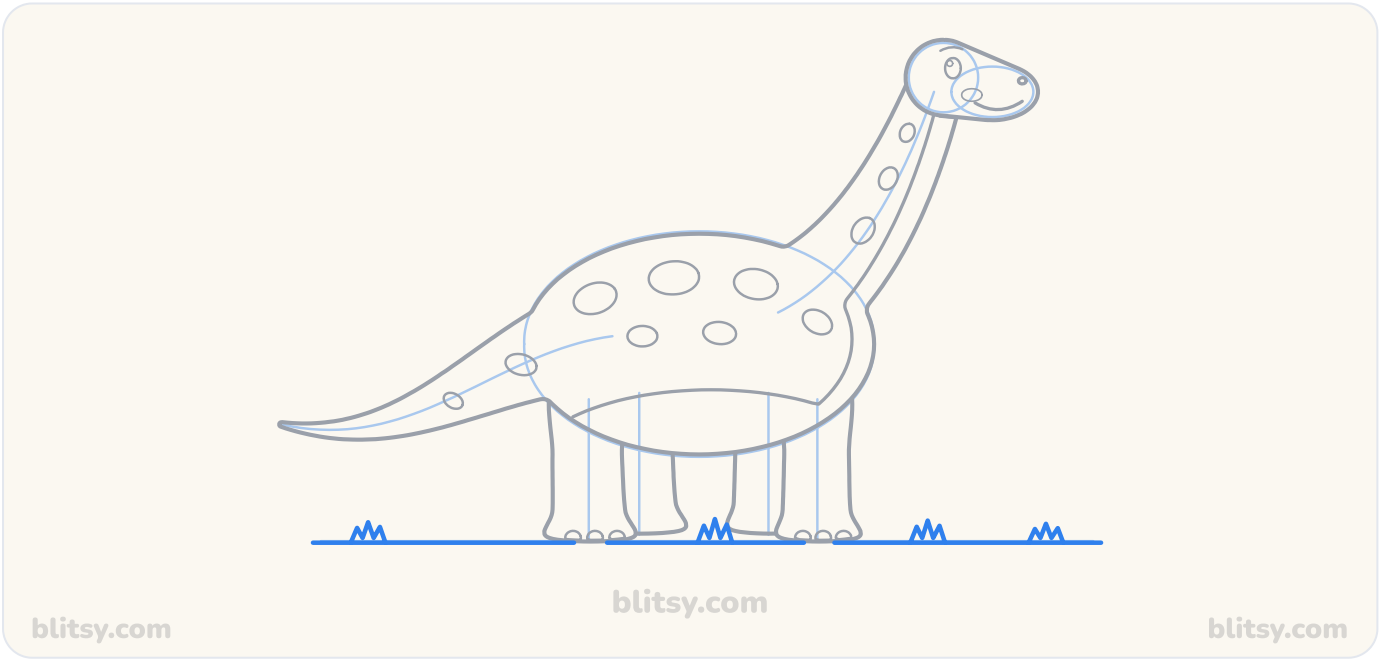
STEP 9 Add spots along the back



Scatter round spots over the back, bigger on the body and smaller as they climb the neck and slide down the tail. I tilt each one a little to follow the curve under it. Keep every spot away from the outline and the belly line so it doesn't touch either.

💡 **Tip:** Odd numbers look more natural. Try five big spots on the body instead of four or six.

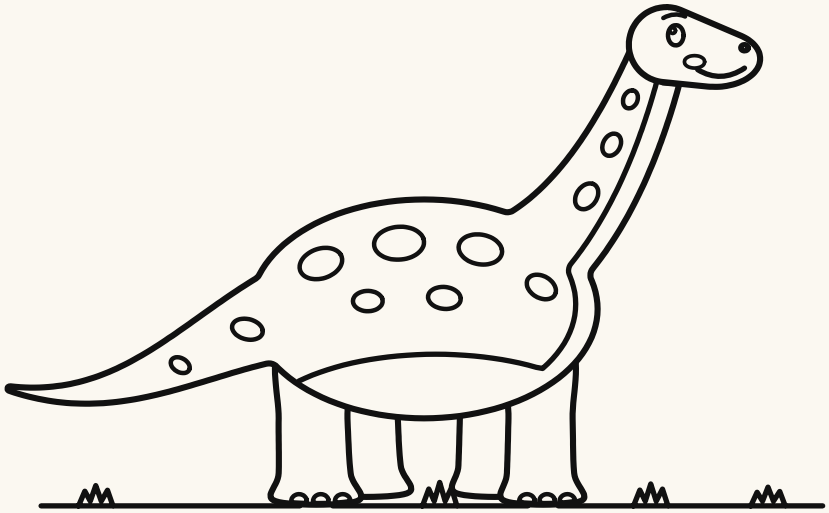
STEP 10 Draw grass and a ground line



Go over the ground line firmly, stopping wherever a foot stands on it. Add a few small grass tufts, each just three pointy blades, spread out along the line. They keep the dinosaur from floating and only take a minute.

💡 **Tip:** Space the tufts unevenly. A neat row of grass looks like a fence.

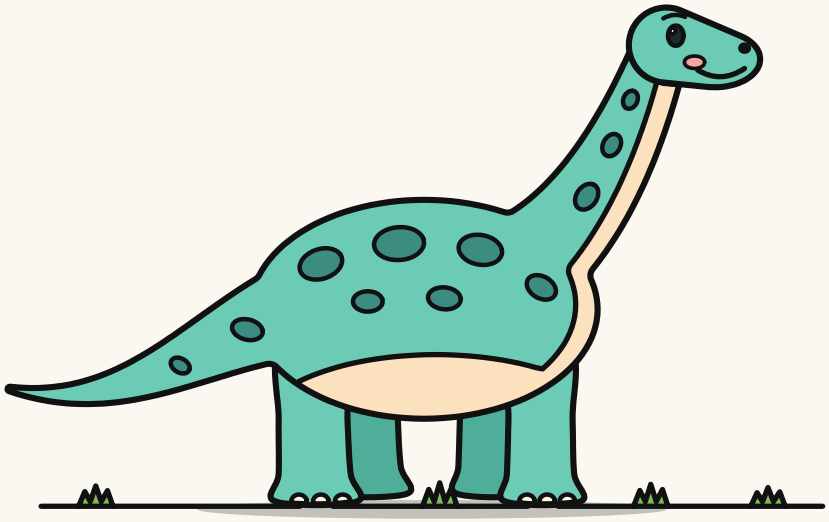
STEP 11 Ink the outline and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with the black marker, starting with the head and neck while your hand is steady. Skip the faint oval and the guide lines. Once the ink is fully dry, erase the pencil so only the clean dinosaur is left.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long neck in one slow stroke if you can. Stopping halfway leaves a little bump.

STEP 12 Color your dinosaur



Teal covers the body, the neck and the head, plus the tail and the two near legs. I give the far legs a darker teal so they sit back. Color the belly and throat peach, the spots deep green, and leave the toenails cream. Finish with pink on the cheek and a soft gray shadow under the feet.

💡 **Tip:** Press harder near the bottom of the body and lighter on top. It gives the belly a round, solid look.