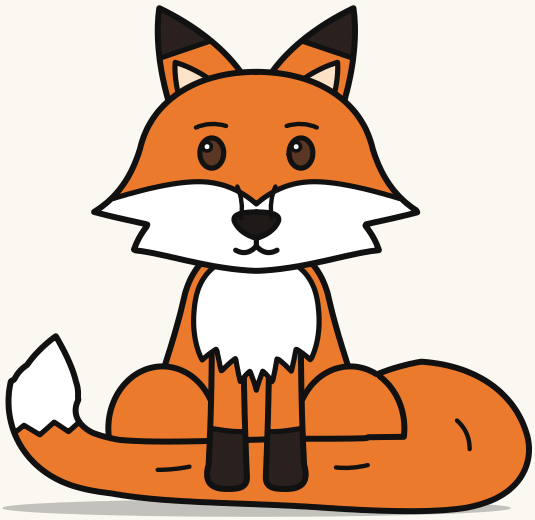
# How to Draw a Fox

12 easy steps for beginners




## What you'll need

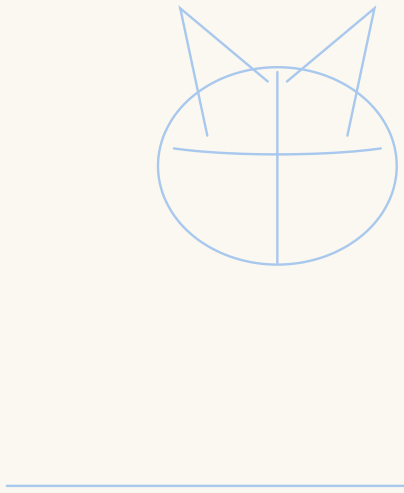
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Orange and black colors, plus brown and peach
- Plain paper

## 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 →**

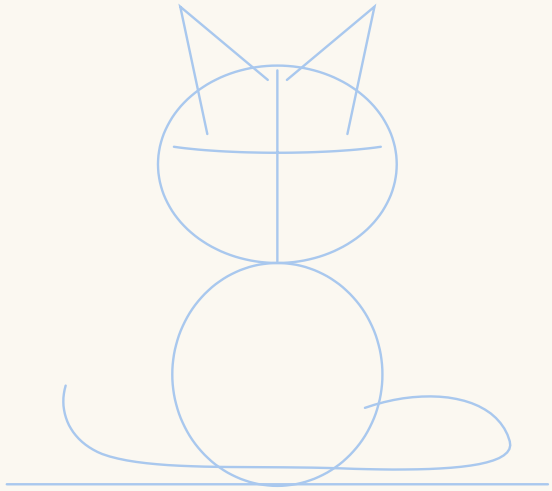
## STEP 1 Sketch the head circle and the ear guides



Draw a light ground line low on the page. Well above it, sketch a wide circle for the head, with a line down its center and a soft curve across, a bit above halfway, for the eyes. Two long thin triangles on top show where the ears go.

💡 **Tip:** Make the head circle slightly wider than it is tall. A fox face is broad at the cheeks.

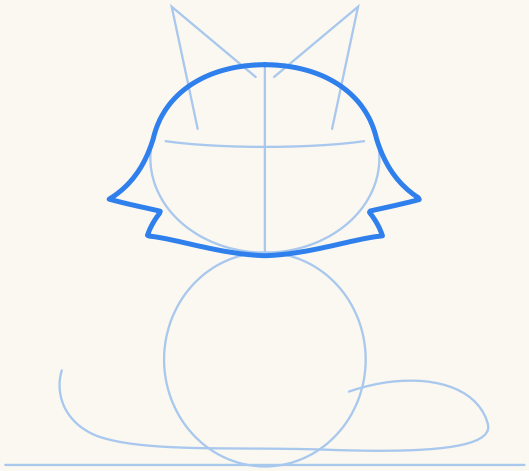
## STEP 2 Add a body oval and the tail curve



Under the head, draw a round oval that touches the head and sits on the ground line. From its right side, sketch one long loop that swings out right, runs back along the ground in front of the oval and curls up on the left. That loop is the tail path.

💡 **Tip:** The tail loop should reach almost as far left as it goes right, so the drawing feels balanced.

## STEP 3 Draw the head with pointed cheek tufts



Follow the top of the head circle with a firm line. On each side, let the line flare out into a sharp point below the eyes, tuck back in, make one smaller point, then curve in to a soft chin. I think of those cheek points as the fluffy fur that gives a fox its clever face.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the left cheek, then copy it on the right before you do anything else. Comparing them side by side keeps the face even.

## STEP 4 Add two tall pointed ears



Use the triangle guides to draw two tall ears with slightly curved sides and sharp tips. They should be big, nearly as tall as the top half of the head, because large ears are what separate a red fox from a cat or a dog. Draw a smaller triangle inside each one, and stop every line where it meets the head.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the ears out a little. Ears pointing straight up make the fox look surprised.

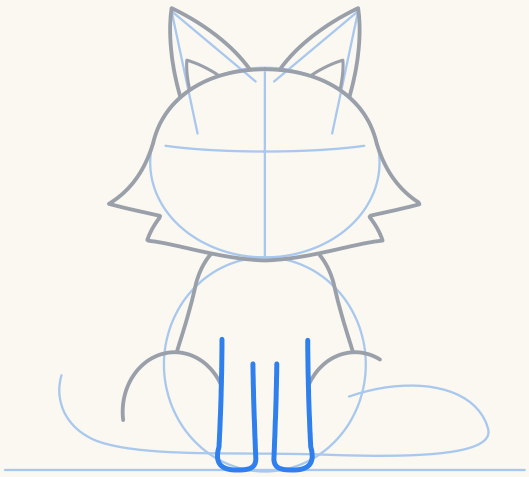
## STEP 5 Draw the sitting body and the haunches



From under each cheek, bring a line down and slightly outward for the sides of the body. Near the bottom, draw a round bump on each side for the folded back legs. Leave the lower parts of those bumps open, because the tail crosses there.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the body narrower than the head. A slim body under a wide head looks cute instead of heavy.

## STEP 6 Add two slim front legs



Draw two thin, straight legs down the middle of the body, close together, with a small gap between them. Round off the bottom of each one into a little paw on the ground line. I keep fox legs much thinner than a dog's, since a fox is a light, quick animal.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both outside edges first and both inside edges second. The legs come out the same width.

## STEP 7 Wrap the big tail around the feet



Follow the tail loop with two lines, about as far apart as one haunch is wide. The tail starts behind the right haunch, swells into a big curve, then lies along the ground in front of the haunches. Stop at the paws so they rest on top of it, and end with a rounded, pointed tip on the left. A few short strokes inside add fur.

💡 **Tip:** Make the tail fatter than you expect. A thin tail turns the fox into a cat right away.

## STEP 8 Mark the white mask, the bib and the tail tip



Under the eyes, draw a wavy line from one cheek point to the other that dips into a V at the middle. Everything below it becomes the white mask. On the chest, draw a rounded bib with a zigzag bottom over the tops of the legs, then a zigzag across the tail near its end.

💡 **Tip:** Make the zigzags small and uneven. Even, sharp teeth look like a saw, not fur.

## STEP 9 Add black socks and dark ear tips



Draw a gently curved line across each front leg, a little above the paw. Below it, the leg turns black, the way a real red fox has dark stockings. Do the same near the top of each ear with a slanted line, so the tips can be colored black too.

💡 **Tip:** Put both sock lines at the same height, or the fox will look like it is standing on a slope.

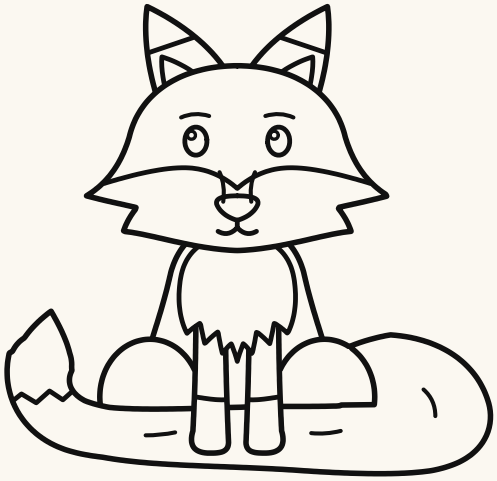
## STEP 10 Draw the eyes, nose and a small smile



Place two oval eyes on the curved cross line, each about halfway between the center line and the edge of the face, with a shine circle in the same corner of both. Short brows go above. At the bottom of the white V, draw a rounded triangle nose, two light lines rising from it for the narrow snout, and a curved smile below.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the nose small and pointed downward. A big round nose makes the face read as a puppy.

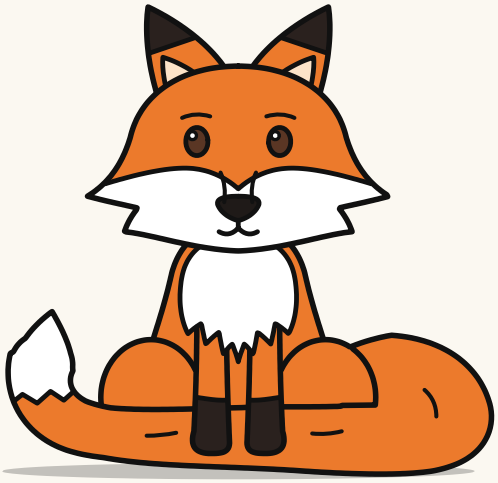
## STEP 11 Ink the outline and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with the black marker. I start at the face and work down, so my hand doesn't smudge fresh ink. Skip the guide shapes. When the ink is dry, erase all the pencil and check that the haunch lines still stop at the tail.

💡 **Tip:** Give the marker a full minute to dry before erasing. Fineliner ink smears more than you'd think.

## STEP 12 Color your red fox



Color most of the fox a warm orange, from the ears down to the legs and most of the tail. Leave the mask, the bib and the tail tip white. Black goes on the ear tips and socks, plus the nose. My eyes get dark brown with a white shine, and the inside of each ear gets light peach. A soft gray shadow under the tail sets the fox on the ground.

💡 **Tip:** Layer a little red or brown over the orange near the edges of the body. The fox looks rounder right away.