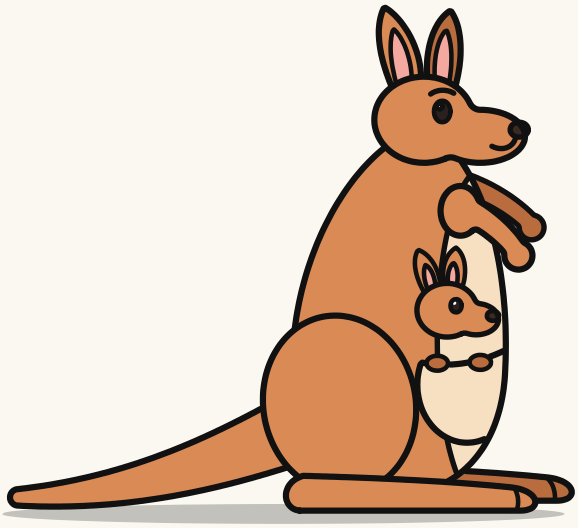
How to Draw a Kangaroo

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

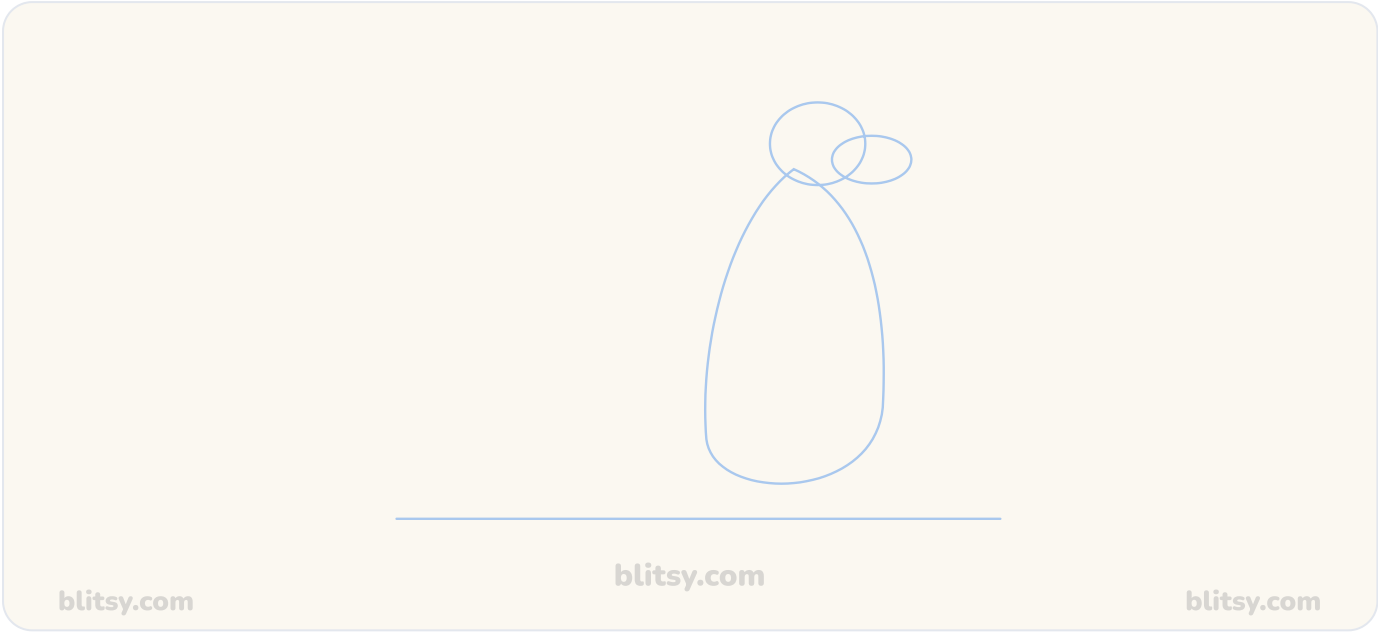
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

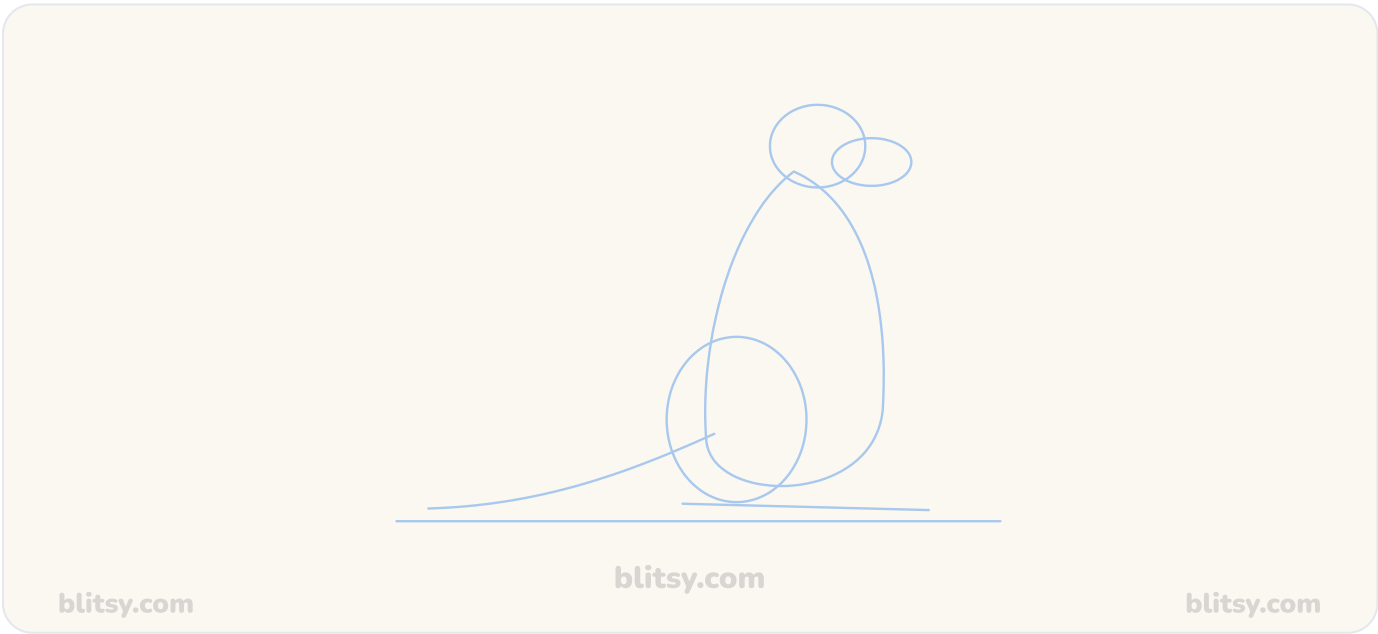
STEP 1 Sketch the head, snout and body guides



Draw a light ground line near the bottom of the page. High up and right of center, sketch a circle for the head and a flat oval sticking out to its right for the snout. Under the head, draw a tall egg that is narrow at the top and wide at the bottom, resting on the ground line. That egg is the whole body.

💡 **Tip:** I make the body egg about five head circles tall. Kangaroos have small heads on tall bodies.

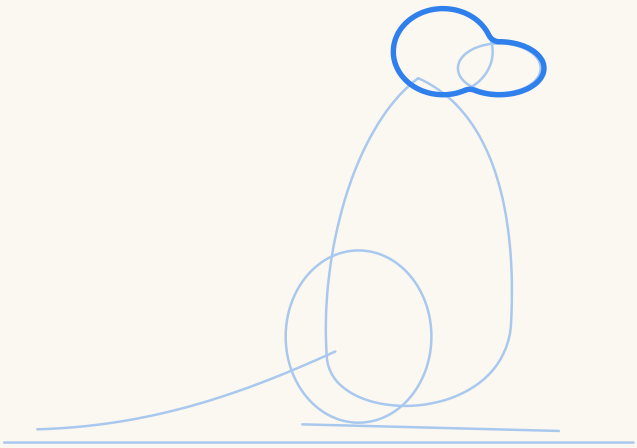
STEP 2 Add guides for the back leg, foot and tail



On the lower left of the body, draw a big oval for the back leg. It should be almost as wide as the bottom of the body. Along the ground, add a long straight line for the foot that reaches past the front of the body. Then sweep one curved line from behind the leg out to the left and down to the ground for the tail.

💡 **Tip:** The foot line should be longer than you expect. Long feet are what kangaroos stand on.

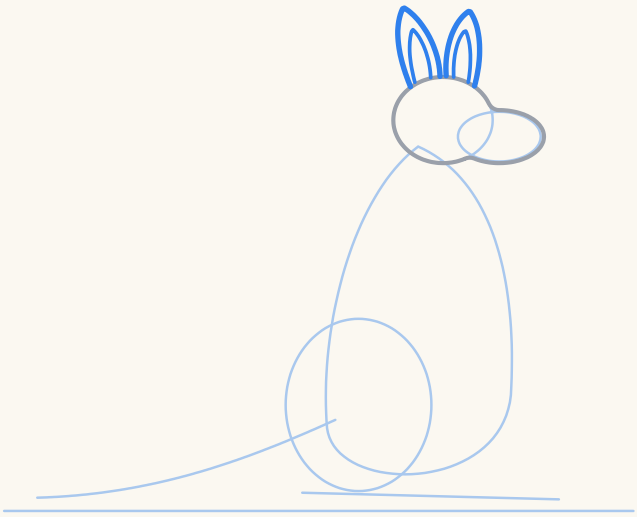
STEP 3 Outline the round head and snout



Trace around the head circle and the snout oval as one smooth shape. Where the two meet on top, let the line dip in a little, like a soft forehead. On the underside, round the chin off so the snout blends into the head instead of looking stuck on.

💡 **Tip:** I keep the snout shorter than the head is wide. A long snout drifts toward a horse.

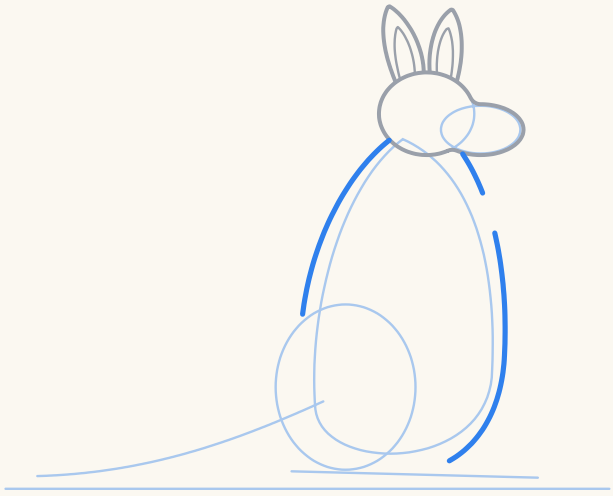
STEP 4 Draw two long ears



From the top of the head, draw two tall leaf shapes pointing up. The one closer to you sits a bit to the left and leans back slightly, while the far ear stands straighter behind it. Inside each one, draw a smaller leaf for the pink inner ear.

💡 **Tip:** Let the ears be close to the height of the head itself. Short ears make it look like a mouse.

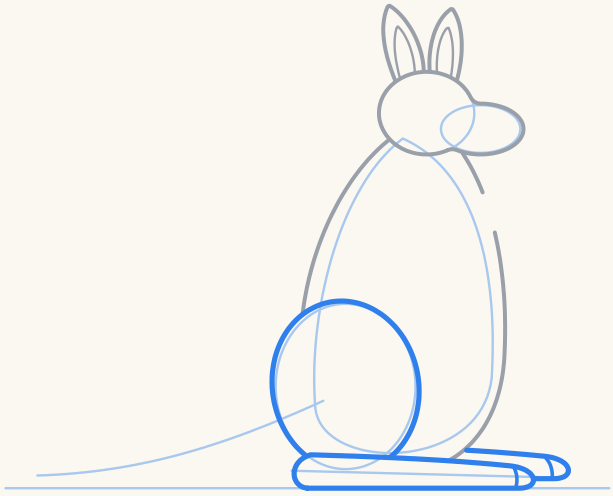
STEP 5 Draw the pear-shaped body



Follow your body guide with a firm line. The back curves down and out from behind the head, swelling wide near the ground. The chest on the right side rounds out more gently. Leave a small gap high on the chest, because the arms go there in a few steps and you won't need to erase anything.

💡 **Tip:** Lean the back line slightly forward. A kangaroo standing perfectly straight looks stiff.

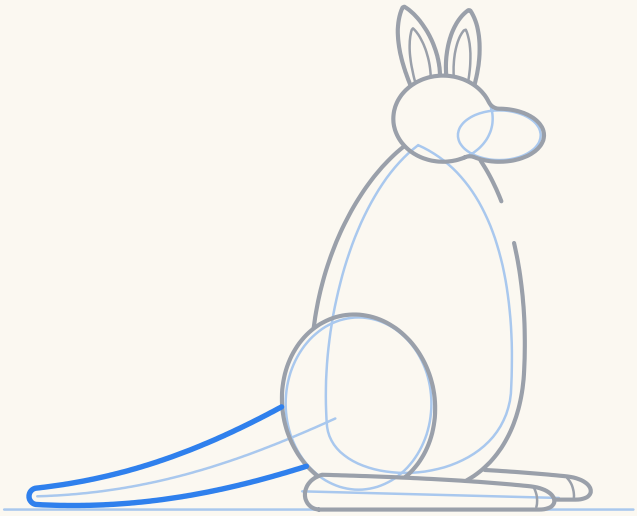
STEP 6 Add the big back leg and long feet



Draw a large oval over the leg guide, tipped a little so the top leans back. This is the strong haunch that does all the jumping. Under it, draw a long flat foot along the ground with a rounded heel at the back. Peeking out just in front, add the tip of the second foot and a small line on each toe.

💡 **Tip:** Rest the haunch right on top of the foot. If there's a gap between them, the kangaroo floats.

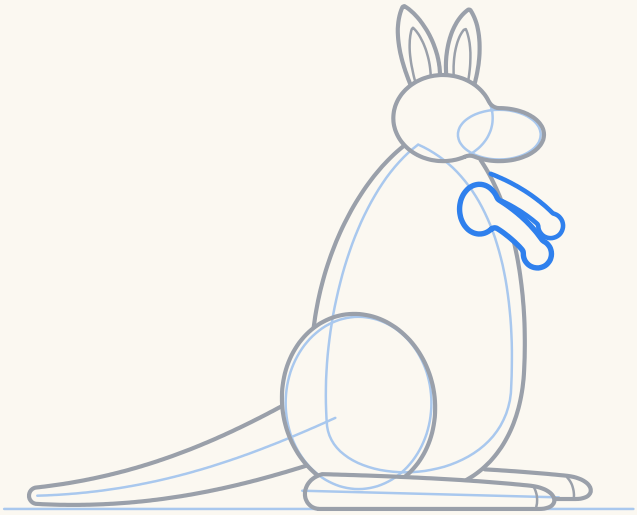
STEP 7 Draw a thick, strong tail



Start the tail behind the haunch, as wide as the leg is thick, and draw two lines that run down and to the left until they meet the ground. Let them get closer and closer as they go, then round off the tip. I let the lower edge lie flat on the ground, since she's leaning her weight on it.

💡 **Tip:** A thin tail is the slip I see most. Make it chunky at the base, like a heavy rope.

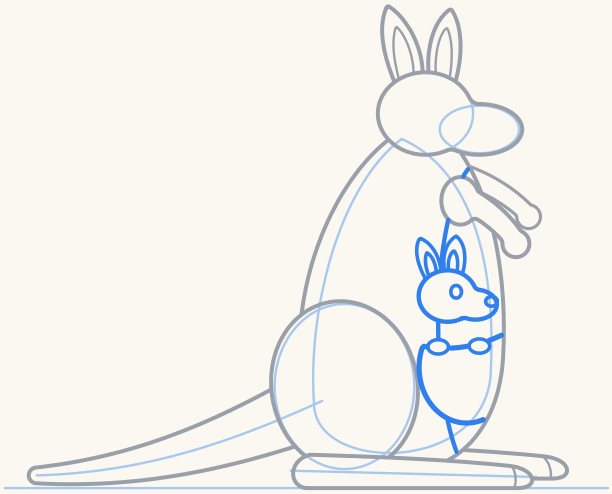
STEP 8 Add small arms with mitten paws



In the gap you left on the chest, draw a short rounded shoulder, then a small arm angling down and forward, ending in a round mitten paw. Just above and behind it, draw the second arm the same way, but only the part that sticks out past the chest. Both paws hang loosely in front of the body.

💡 **Tip:** Compare the arm with the back leg. The arm should look almost silly small next to it.

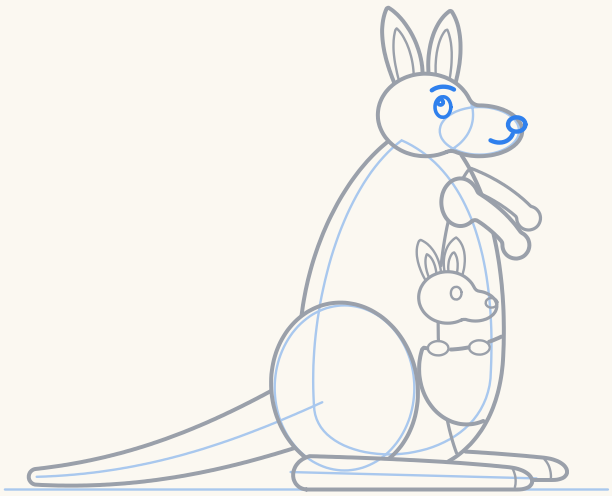
STEP 9 Draw the pouch and the peeking joey



Draw a long oval patch down the front of the belly for the lighter fur. On its lower part, draw the pouch: a gently curved rim with a rounded pocket under it. Just above the rim, sketch a little head with a tiny snout and two small ears, like a smaller copy of the mother. Finish with two small paws hooked over the rim.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the joey's paws last, on top of the rim line. It makes the joey look like it's holding on.

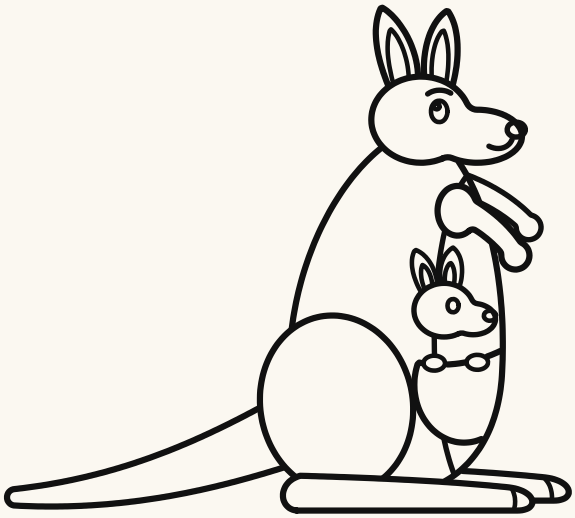
STEP 10 Give her a kind, smiling face



Place an oval eye high on the head, closer to the forehead than to the snout, with a small shine circle near the top. A short curved brow above it softens the look. Add a dark rounded nose at the tip of the snout and a small smile curving back from under it. The joey gets a dot eye and a tiny nose too.

💡 **Tip:** Put the eye in the head circle, not in the snout. That keeps the face sweet instead of goofy.

STEP 11 Ink the kangaroo and erase the guides

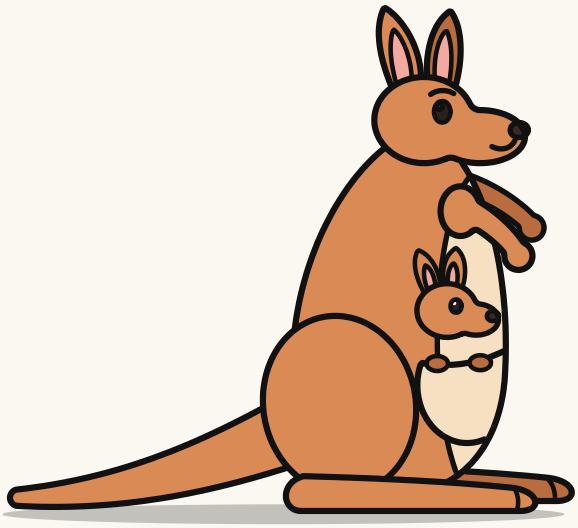


blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Trace every keeper line with the black marker. I like to do the face and the joey first, while my hand is steady, then the long body lines and the tail. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the light guide shapes.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the page sideways for the tail so you can pull the line toward you in one stroke.

STEP 12 Color your kangaroo



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Light reddish brown covers most of the mother and all of the joey. I use a darker brown on the parts farther away, like the far ear and far arm, which pushes them back. The belly and pouch are cream and the inner ears pink. Eyes and noses go black, but leave the shine dots white.

💡 **Tip:** Press harder along the back and the bottom of the haunch so the shape looks rounder.