How to Draw a Quokka

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 →

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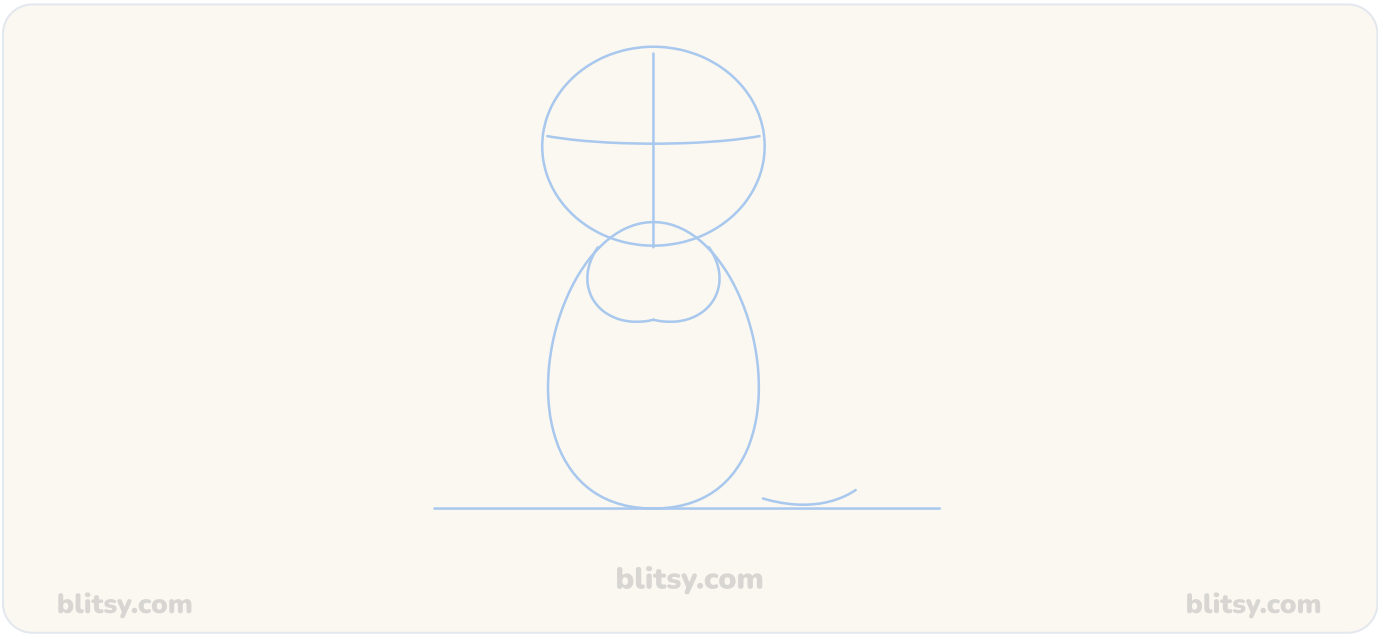
STEP 1 Draw a head circle and cross lines



Start with a flat ground line near the bottom of the page. Well above it, draw a circle for the head, a touch wider than it is tall. Add a line straight down the middle and a soft curve across it, a little above halfway. The eyes will sit on that curve and the nose will sit on the middle line.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the line. All of these guides get erased later.

STEP 2 Add a pear body and the arm guides



Under the head, draw a pear shape that's narrow at the top and wide at the bottom, sitting right on the ground line. I make the bottom of the pear wider than the head, because a quokka sits on big round haunches like a little kangaroo. Sketch a curved line from each shoulder to the middle of the chest for the arms, and a short curve off the lower right for the tail.

💡 **Tip:** If the pear comes out the same width all the way down, your quokka will look like a bear standing up. Push the bottom out.

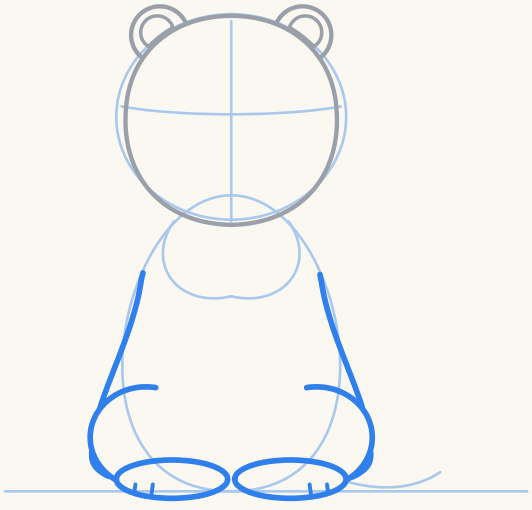
STEP 3 Outline the round head and small ears



Go over the head circle with a firm line, letting the cheeks bulge out a little toward the bottom. Then add two small round ears on the top corners and a smaller circle inside each one. Quokka ears are short and round, much smaller than a bunny's or a mouse's.

💡 **Tip:** Keep each ear about a quarter as wide as the head. Bigger ears turn it into a mouse.

STEP 4 Draw the plump body and long feet



Follow the pear guide down each side of the body. Near the bottom, draw a big round hip on each side that bulges out past the body line. Next come two long oval feet side by side on the ground, each with two short toe lines. Leave the top of the body open where the arms will go.

💡 **Tip:** Overlap the feet onto the hips a little. That's what makes the quokka look like it's really sitting.

STEP 5 Add the light belly and face patch



Draw a tall oval in the middle of the body for the pale belly, ending just above the feet. On the face, draw a rounded patch below the eye line with two small bumps on top, like a wide bean. This lighter area is where the nose and the smile go.

💡 **Tip:** Make the face patch reach almost to the bottom of the head. A small patch leaves no room for the big smile.

STEP 6 Draw the short arms and paws



Each arm starts under the head and curves down and in toward the middle of the chest. Give the arms some real thickness, about as wide as an ear. At the ends, draw two small round paws that touch each other in the center, as if the quokka is clapping or holding something.

💡 **Tip:** Draw both arms as mirror images. Look from one to the other as you go so they match.

STEP 7 Put a leaf in its paws



Quokkas eat leaves and grasses, so I like to give mine a snack. Draw a long leaf with a pointed tip coming up from the paws and leaning to the right. A line through the middle makes the vein, and a short stem pokes out under the paws.

💡 **Tip:** Tuck the bottom of the leaf behind the paws instead of on top of them, so it looks gripped.

STEP 8 Add a short, thick tail



From the right side of the body, near the ground, draw a tail that sweeps out and curls up slightly at the end. It should be thick where it leaves the body and thinner at the rounded tip. Keep it fairly short.

💡 **Tip:** A long, skinny tail makes it look like an otter or a rat. Short and chunky reads as quokka.

STEP 9 Draw button eyes and a small nose



On the eye curve, draw two round eyes about the same distance from the middle line. Add a small circle in the top corner of each for the shine. Then draw the nose as a rounded triangle pointing down, sitting at the top of the face patch.

💡 **Tip:** Set the eyes a little wide apart. Close-set eyes make the face look worried instead of happy.

STEP 10 Give it the famous quokka smile



This is the step everyone waits for. Draw a short line down from the nose. From the bottom of that line, draw a wide curve up to each side, then a deeper curve underneath to close the open mouth. Add a small tongue at the bottom and a tiny curved dimple at each corner.

💡 **Tip:** Lift the corners of the mouth higher than the middle. That upturn is what makes it look like it's grinning.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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Trace every keeper line with your black marker. I start with the face while my hand is fresh, since a wobble in the smile shows the most. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the pencil guides.

💡 **Tip:** Go slowly around the round paws. Short strokes keep them from turning into lumpy ovals.

STEP 12 Color your quokka



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Color the head, body, arms and ears light brown, and use a darker brown for the feet and tail. The belly and face patch are cream. Fill the inner ears and tongue with pink and the mouth with dark red brown. The leaf is green. Finish with black eyes, a dark brown nose and two soft pink cheeks.

💡 **Tip:** Real quokkas have grayish brown fur, so a light layer of gray over the brown makes it look more natural.