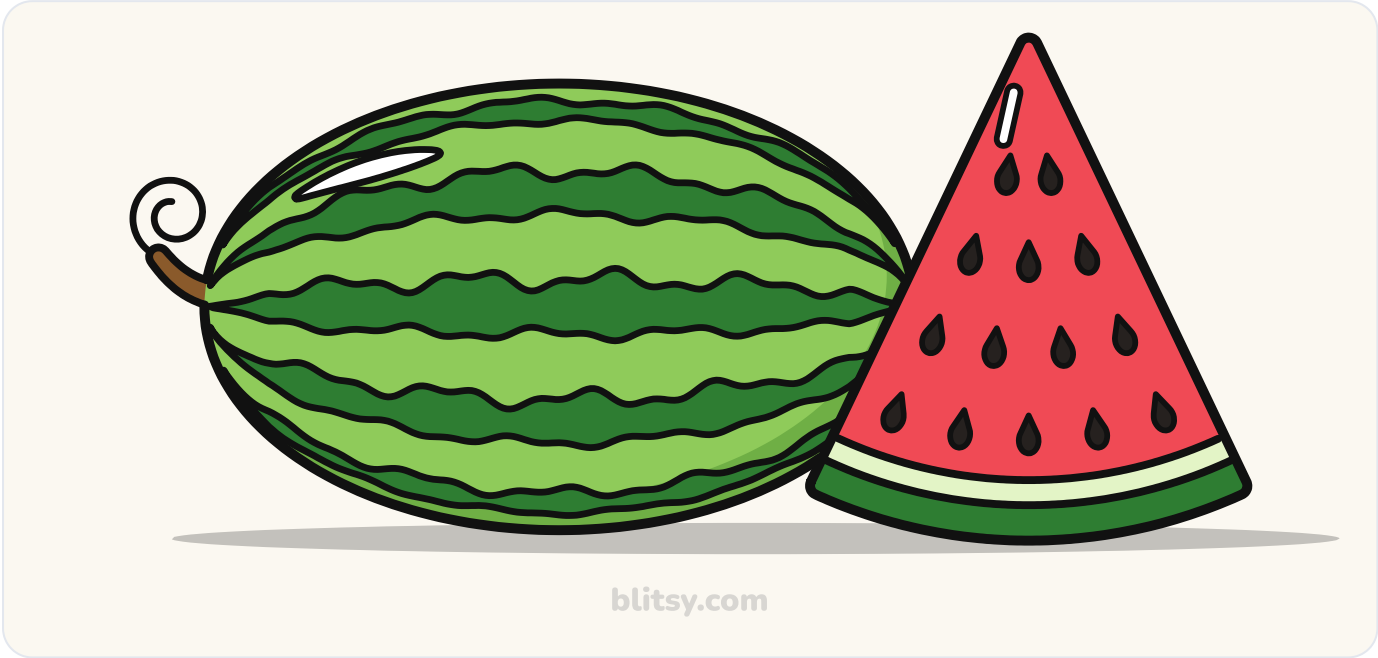
How to Draw a Watermelon

10 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

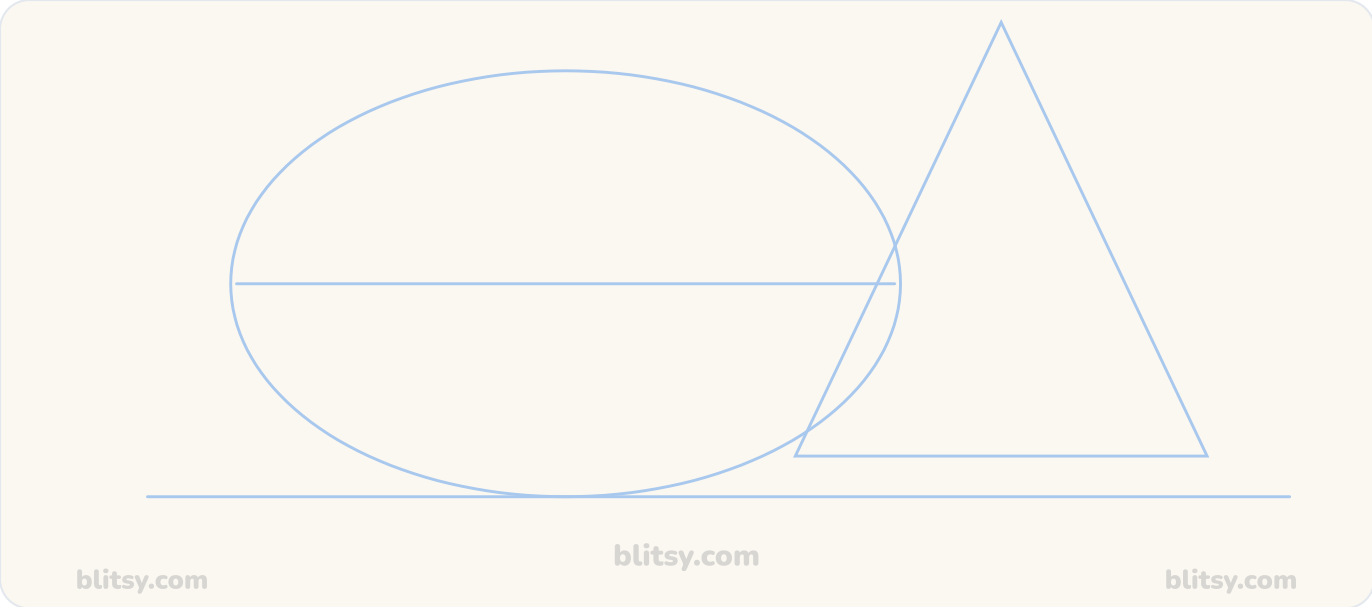
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

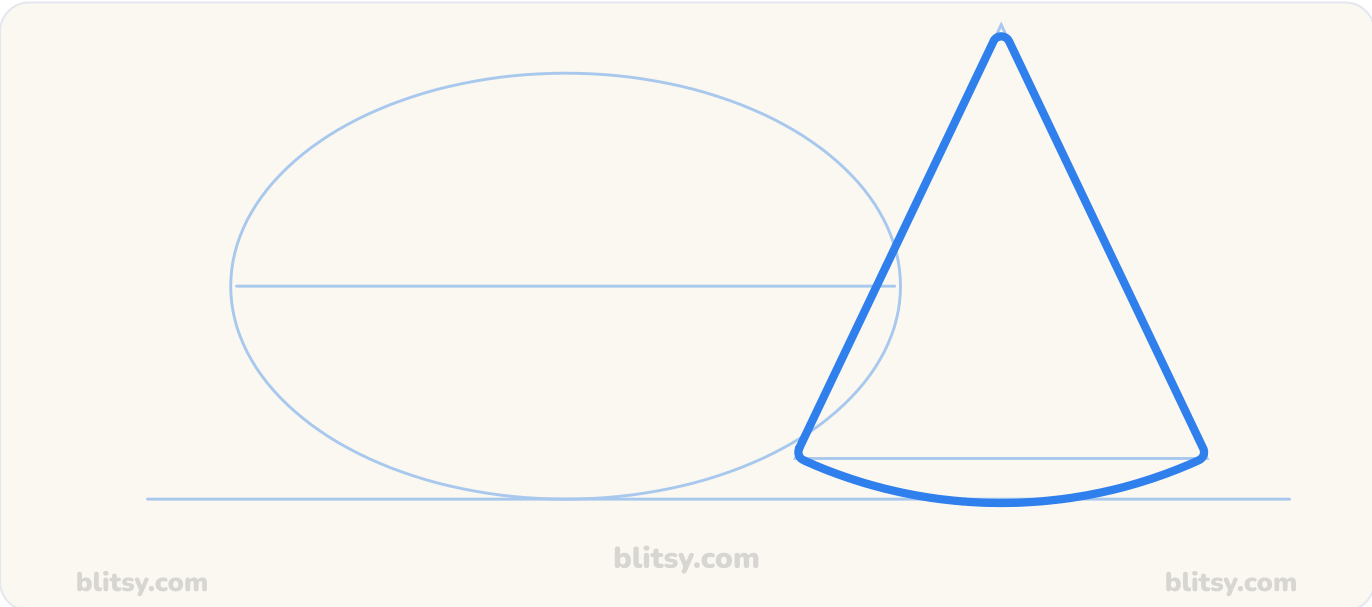
STEP 1 Sketch an oval and a tall triangle



Draw a light ground line near the bottom of the page. Sit a long oval on it, a little left of center, about one and a half times as wide as it is tall. Cut it in half with a straight line from end to end. Then draw a tall triangle on the right that overlaps the oval's right end, with its base floating just above the ground line.

💡 **Tip:** Keep these lines faint enough that you have to squint. Every one of them gets erased.

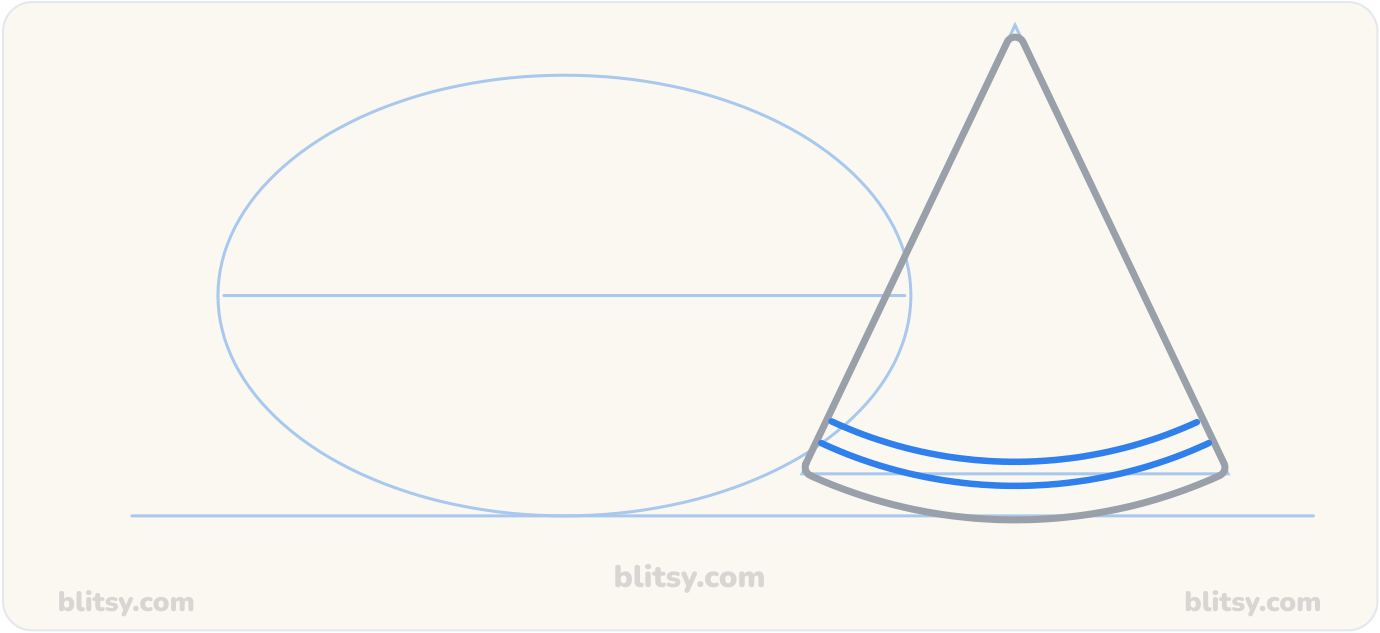
STEP 2 Outline the big slice



Trace the two long sides of the triangle with firm lines and round off the top point a little. For the bottom, skip the straight base. Instead, draw a curve that dips below it and just kisses the ground line, like a smile. That curve is the rind, and it's what makes the shape read as a melon slice and not a slice of pizza.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bottom curve in one smooth swing from corner to corner, moving your whole arm, not just the fingers.

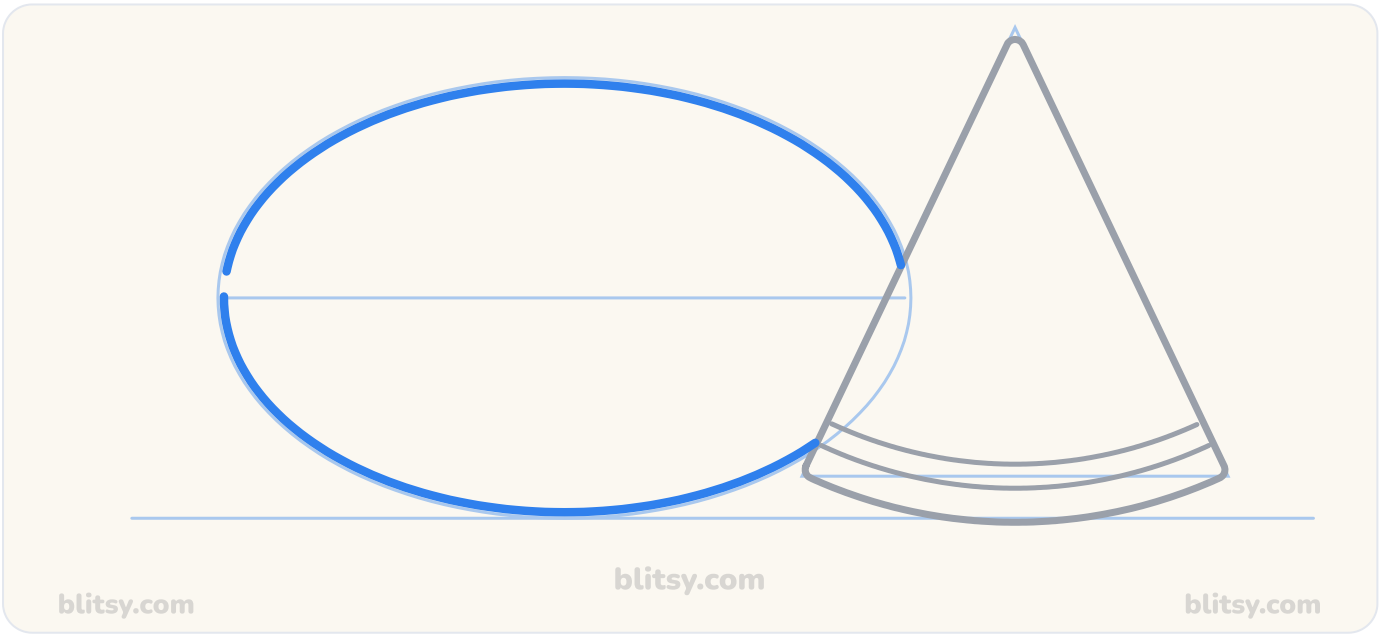
STEP 3 Add two curved rind bands



Inside the slice, draw two more curves that follow the bottom edge. The first sits about a finger width above it. The second goes a little higher, with a thinner gap. Now the slice has three zones: dark rind at the bottom, a pale strip in the middle, and the big red part on top.

💡 **Tip:** Make the lower band the thicker one. Real rind is wider than the pale strip above it.

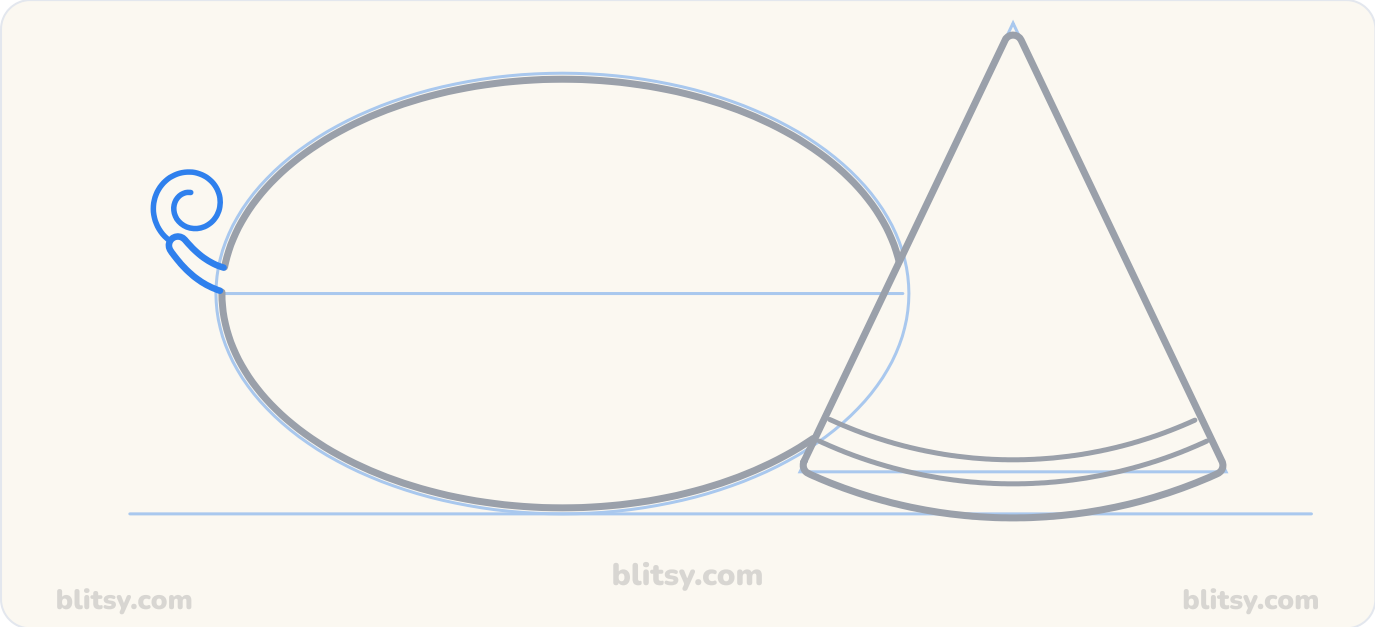
STEP 4 Draw the long melon outline



Go over the oval with a confident line, starting at the slice and running all the way around to the other side of the slice. Stop where the line meets the slice, because the slice is standing in front. I find this rule of stopping at the front object is the one trick that makes two things look like they share the same table.

💡 **Tip:** If your oval came out lumpy, fix it now while it's still pencil. A smooth outline matters more than the stripes.

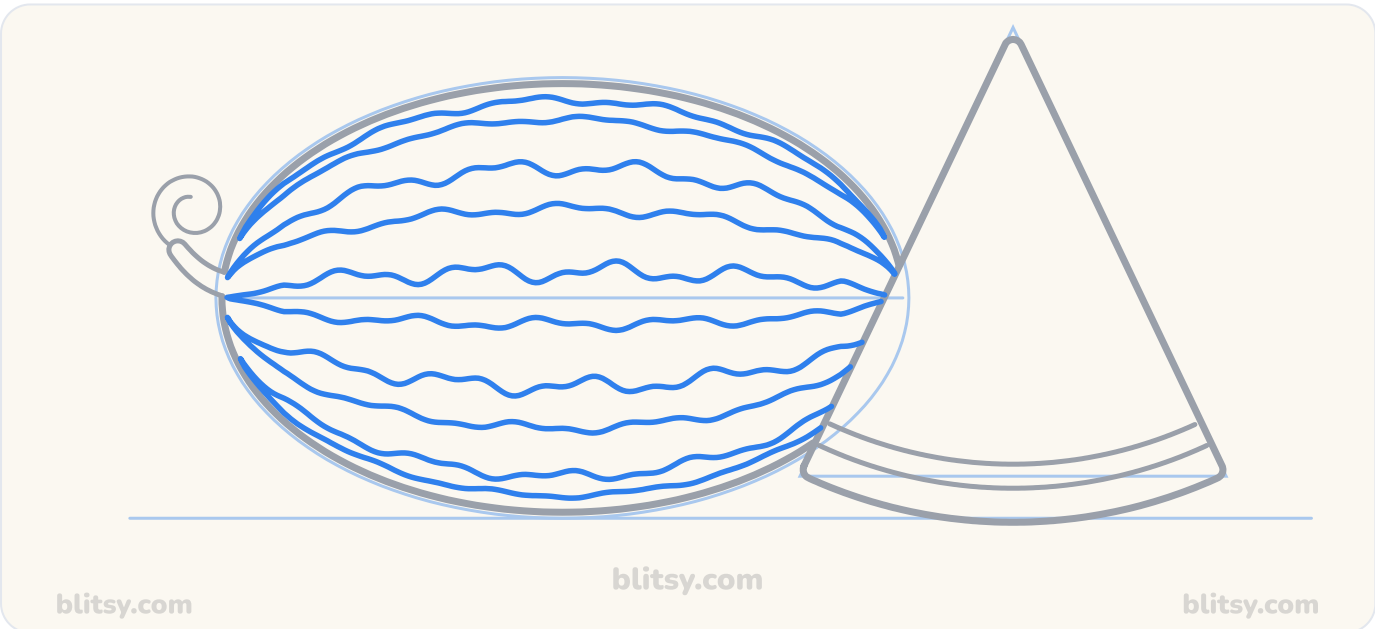
STEP 5 Add a stem and a curly vine



At the left end of the melon, right on the middle line, draw a short stem that bends upward, a bit like a thumb. From its tip, let a thin vine twist into a small spiral. Kids usually love this part. It's tiny, but it tells everyone this fruit grew on a vine in a garden.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the spiral from the outside in, getting smaller each turn, and stop before it closes up.

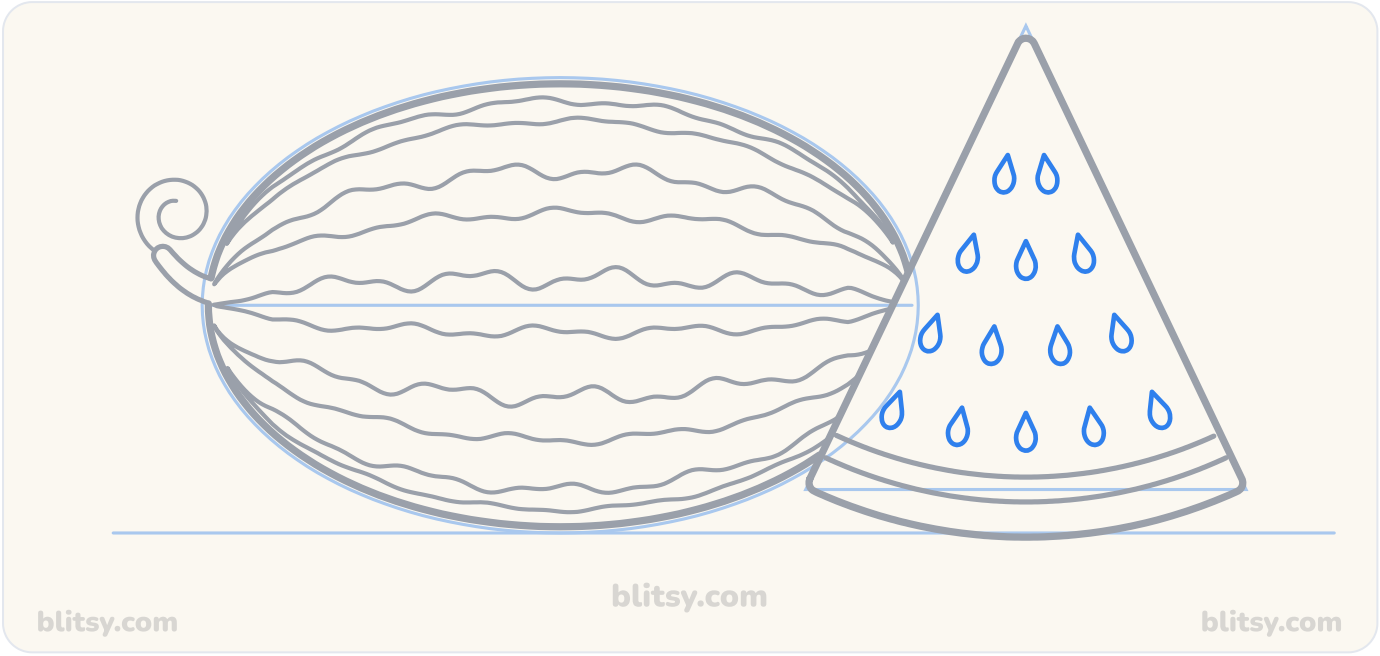
STEP 6 Draw wavy stripes from end to end



This is the step that turns a green oval into a watermelon. Each stripe is a band with two wiggly edges, running from one end to the other. Start with the one on the middle line, then add two above and two below. Let them get thinner near the top and bottom edge and pinch together at the ends, which makes the melon look round.

💡 **Tip:** Wiggle the edges loosely. Perfectly straight stripes make the melon look like a striped ball.

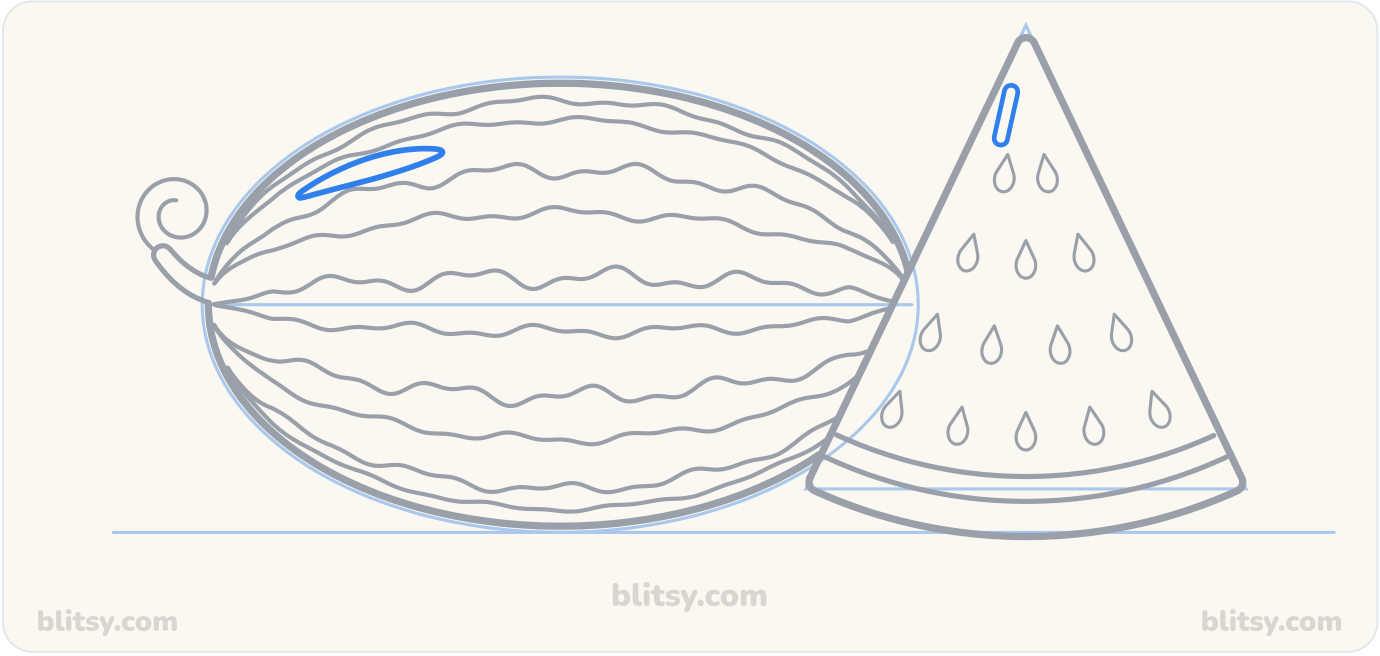
STEP 7 Draw teardrop seeds in rows



Fill the red part of the slice with small teardrops, pointy end up toward the tip. I place them in curved rows that follow the rind: two seeds near the top, then three, then four, then five just above the pale band. Leave a little space between them so each seed stays a clear shape.

💡 **Tip:** Tilt the outer seeds slightly so they lean with the sides of the slice. It looks more natural than all of them standing straight.

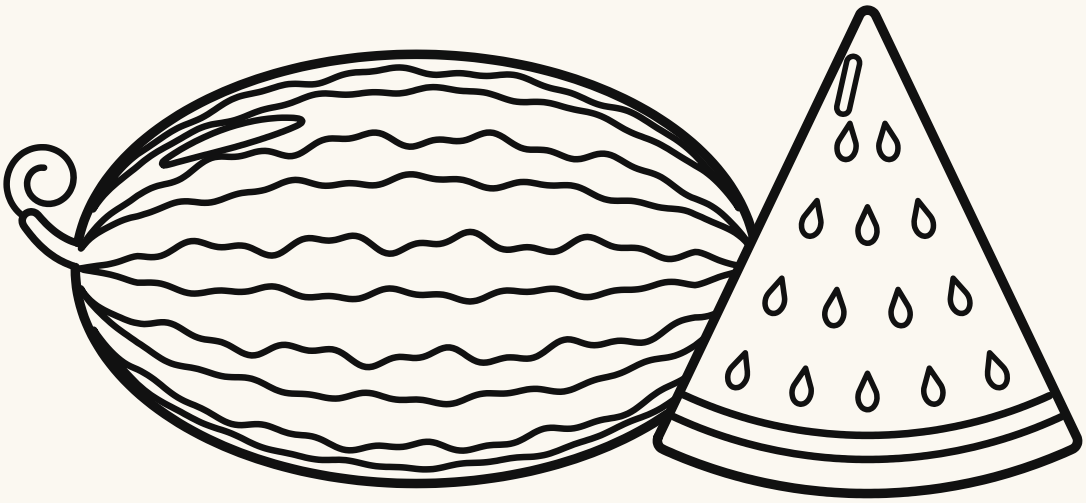
STEP 8 Add two shiny spots



On the upper left of the whole melon, draw a thin curved highlight that sits in a light stripe, between two dark ones. Then put a short narrow streak near the top of the slice, along its left side. These two shapes stay white later, and they make both pieces look fresh and a little wet.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both shines on the same side, the left, as if the sun is shining from one spot.

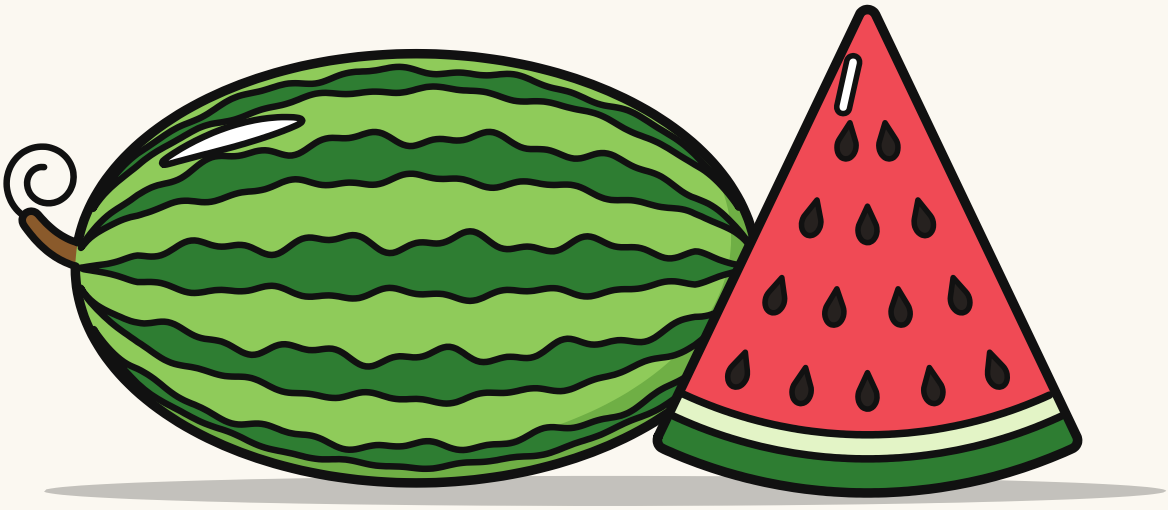
STEP 9 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with your black marker. I do the slice first, then the melon outline, and the stripes last, since they take the longest. Skip the oval guide, the triangle and the middle line. Let the ink dry for a minute before you erase, or the marker will smear.

💡 **Tip:** Use a thicker line for the outer edges and a thinner one for the stripes and seeds. The drawing reads much cleaner that way.

STEP 10 Color the watermelon



Color the whole melon light green first, then go over the stripes in dark green. Give the slice a dark green rind, a pale green band and bright red flesh. Seeds are black, the stem is brown, and both shiny spots stay white. A soft gray shadow under everything sets it on the table.

💡 **Tip:** Press harder on the dark stripes than on the light green. Strong contrast is what makes the pattern pop.