Draw a frog

Start with any subject

Frog — page 2

Medium — turning body and foot guides into a crouching pose with folded legs and spreading toes

Use a pencil, eraser and paper. Draw temporary guides lightly. Green pointers help you; do not copy them.

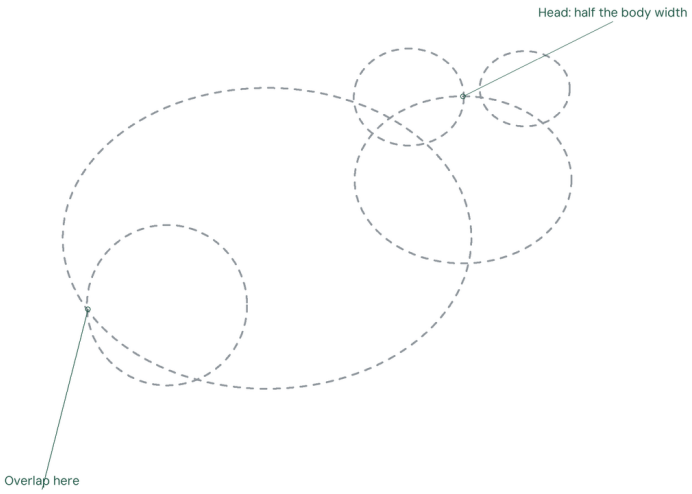
Read each drawing goal from top to bottom. Some pages scroll so the pictures can stay large. Compare the before and after views when erasing.

The lesson tells you when the base animal is complete. Extra details, objects, coloring and another try are optional.

Place the crouching pose

Gray dashes: light guides. Black: kept outlines. Orange: new outlines. Green helpers are not drawing marks.

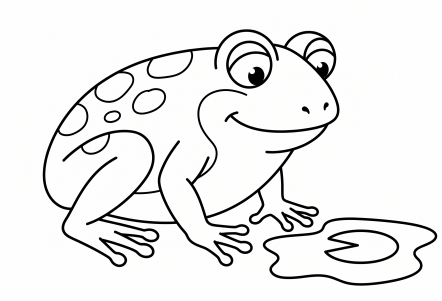
Place the body, head and folded leg



Draw a body oval about twice as wide as the head oval. Overlap the head at the upper right. Overlap a round thigh guide with the lower-left body. Add two eye ovals above the head; make the nearer one slightly larger.

The thigh overlaps the lower-left body. The nearer eye is larger, with space below for the feet.

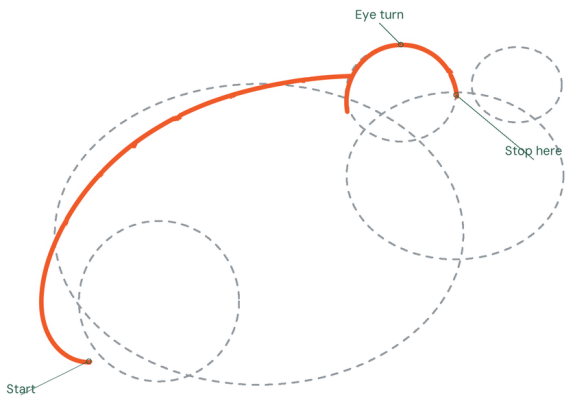
Finished example with optional details



Connect the back and face

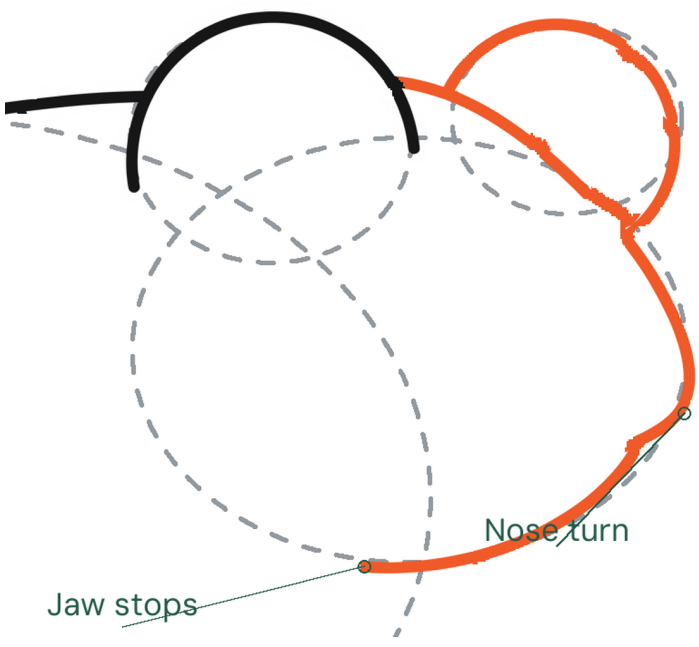
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Join the back to the nearer eye



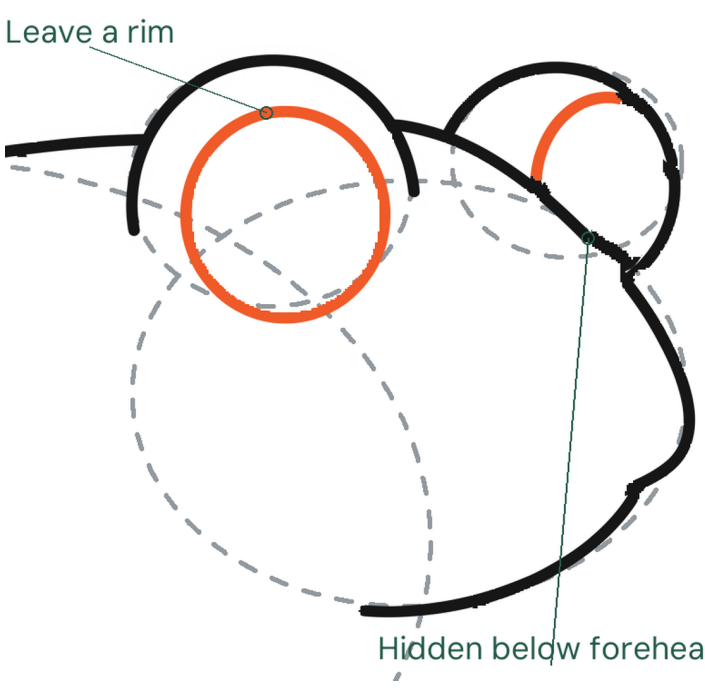
Sweep along the body oval from the low back toward the nearer eye. Round the top of that eye guide, leaving its lower part open.

Join the forehead, nose and jaw



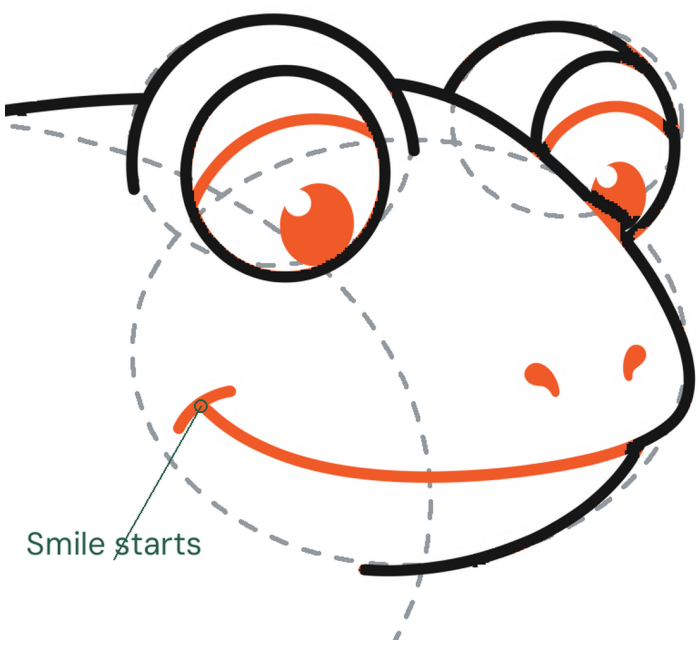
Round the top of the far-eye oval. From beside the nearer eye, follow the head oval down around the nose. Curve back along the lower head for the jaw. Stop the far-eye outline where the forehead passes in front.

Place an oval inside each eye



Draw a smaller oval inside the nearer eye bump, leaving a rim above it. Repeat inside the farther bump. Stop the smaller far oval at the forehead; its lower part is hidden.

Add lids, pupils and a smile



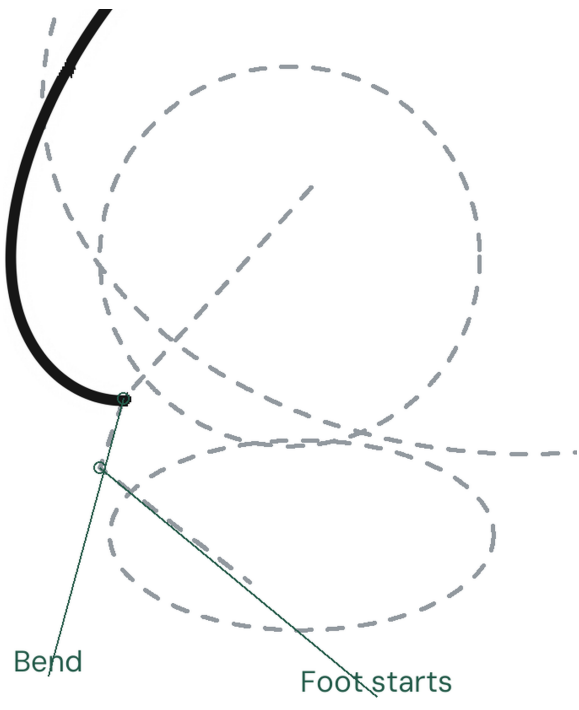
Bow a lid across each inner oval. Put a round pupil at each lower-right edge, leaving a small white circle. Add two short nostril marks above the smile. Curve the smile from its left corner toward the nose; add a short corner arc.

The smaller far eye partly hides behind the forehead. Keep a tiny white highlight in each pupil.

Fold the hind leg into its foot

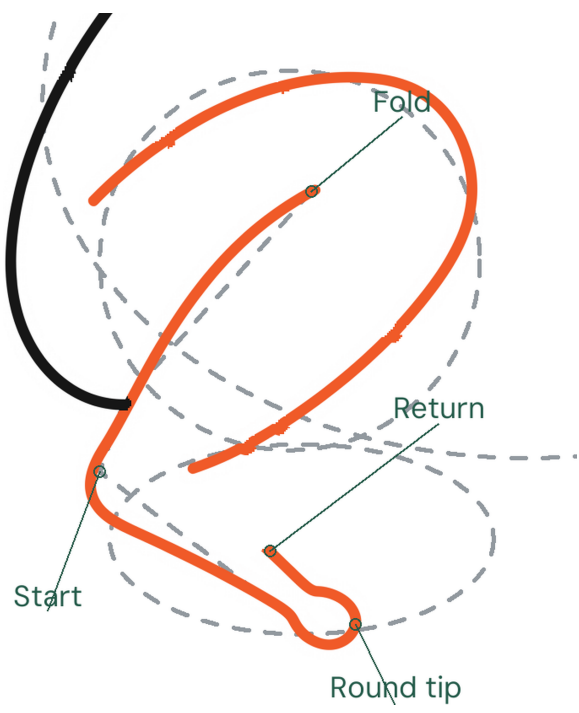
Gray dashes: light guides. Black: kept outlines. Orange: new outlines. Green helpers are not drawing marks.

Plan the folded leg and hind foot



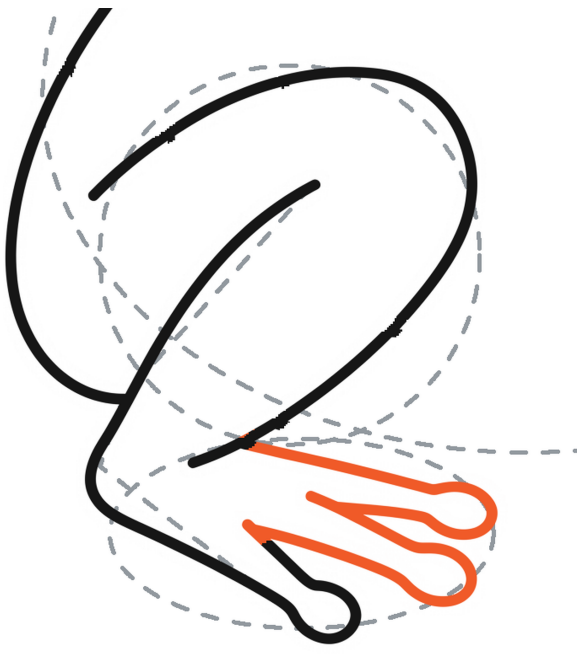
From inside the thigh oval, mark a slant toward the low back, then bend the light direction line down toward a broad foot oval.

Round the thigh and make one toe



Round the thigh guide and draw the inner fold toward the low back. Follow the bend into the foot. Start the lowest toe at the ankle, curve out to its rounded tip, then return inward. Keep the upper foot open.

Repeat two toes on the hind foot



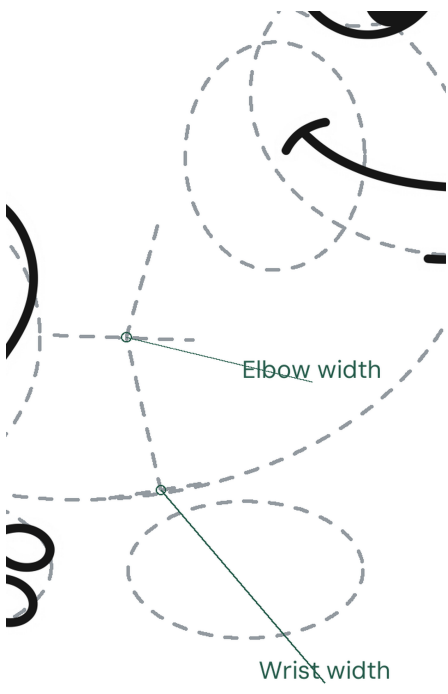
Round the two remaining toes using the same out-and-back motion. Let their inner ends stop inside the foot.

The inner fold is open at the top; all toes return into one foot.

Build the nearer arm and foot

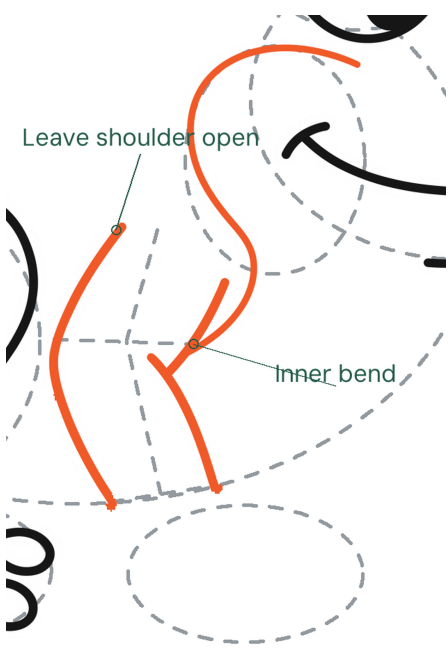
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Place the nearer arm and foot



Place a cheek oval below the nearer eye and a foot oval below the body. Draw the bent direction line between them. Add two short width bars: a wider one at the elbow and a shorter one where the arm meets the foot.

Curve both edges around the arm guide



Round the left side of the cheek oval, then bend back toward the inner end of the elbow bar. Follow the guide down to the right end of the wrist bar. Draw the outer edge through the left ends of both bars. Add the short elbow crease.

Join the arm to its first toe



From the outer wrist, curve along the foot oval toward the lowest toe. Round its end, then turn back inward. Stop inside the oval; leave the other side open for the next toes.

Complete the nearer foot



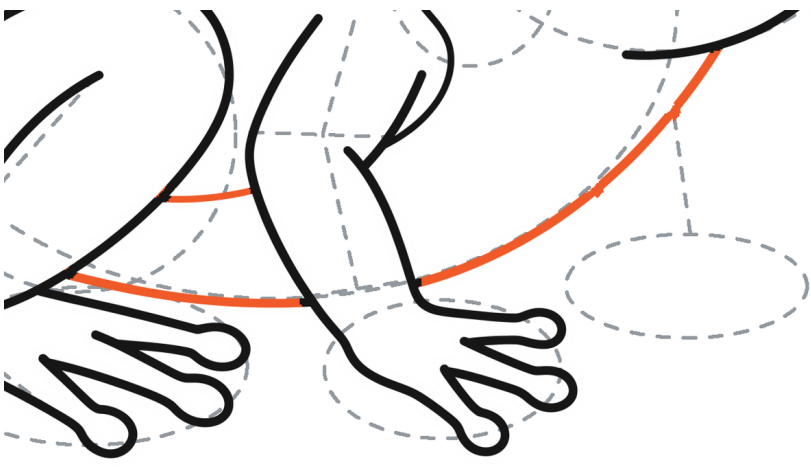
Round the upper and middle toes with the same motion as the first. Keep their inner ends inside the foot.

Both arm edges meet the foot. Keep the shoulder open inside the body; the belly will stop behind this arm.

Join the belly and farther arm

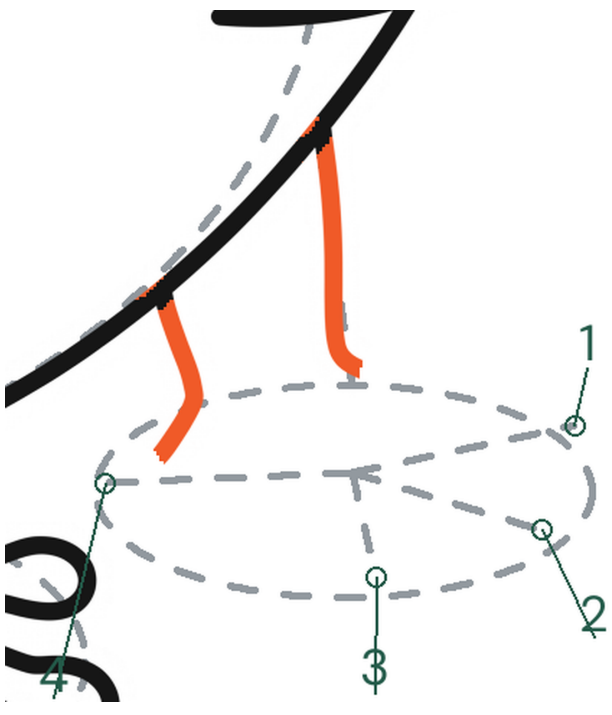
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Connect the belly and place the far arm



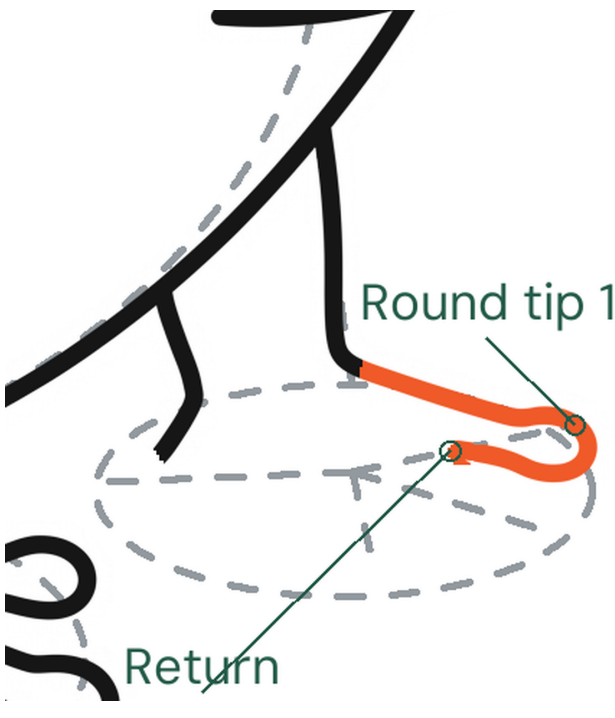
Join only the visible belly sections between the nearer limbs. Under the right side, place a short far-arm line and a smaller foot oval.

Bring the far arm to its foot



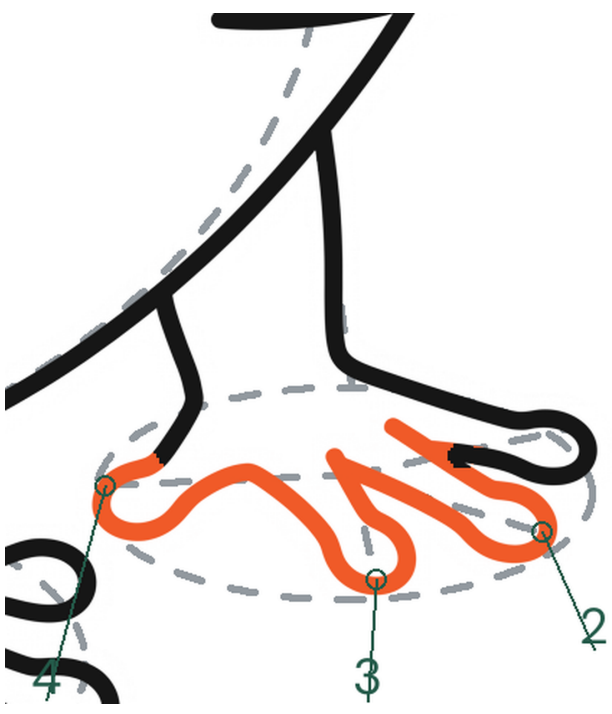
Draw both arm edges down to the foot oval. From its middle, lightly mark four directions: right, lower-right, down and left. These marks place the four toe tips. The top of the arm stays hidden behind the belly.

Round the first toe to the right



From the right arm edge, follow the top of the foot oval toward tip 1. Make a rounded U-turn, then come back toward the middle. Stop inside the oval, above the line to tip 2; do not close the foot yet.

Repeat around the other three directions



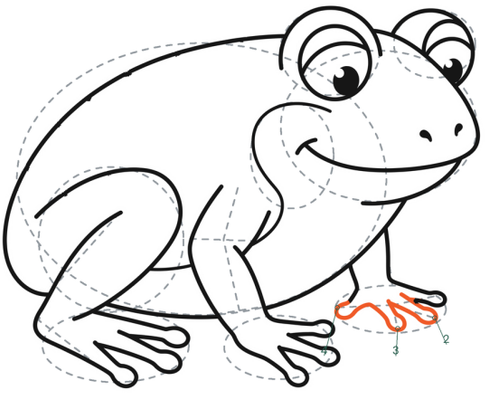
Continue out and back around tip 2, then tip 3. Finish the left-facing toe at tip 4 and join it to the left arm edge. Each rounded tip follows a direction mark; keep the inner joins inside the foot.

Keep three visible feet; the far hind foot is hidden.

Erase guides and finish the base frog

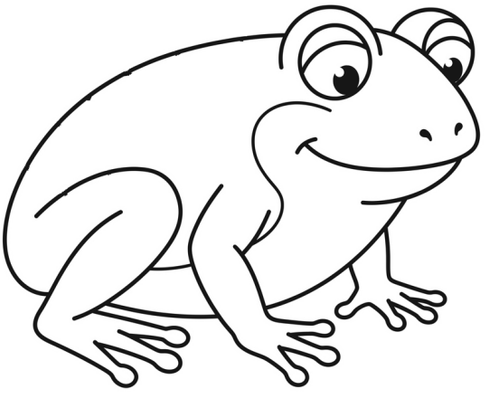
Gray dashes: light guides. Black: kept outlines. Orange: new outlines. Green helpers are not drawing marks.

Before: choose what goes



Erase only the dashed gray body, head, eye, thigh and cheek ovals, limb directions, arm-width bars, toe directions and three foot ovals. Keep all solid black eye and body lines.

After: the base frog is complete



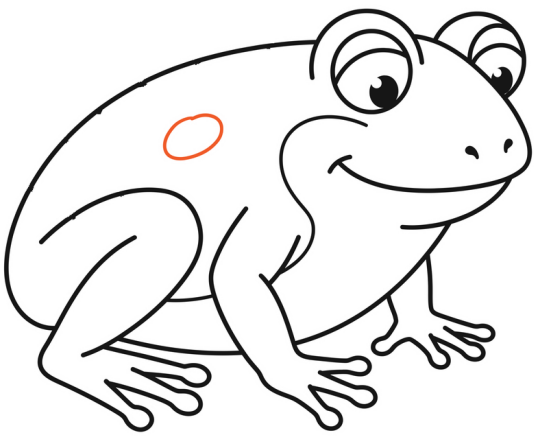
Only the dashed gray construction guides are gone. Keep every solid black eye, face line, folded leg, arm and attached foot. The base frog is finished.

The animal is complete before spots, water or color.

Optional spot pattern

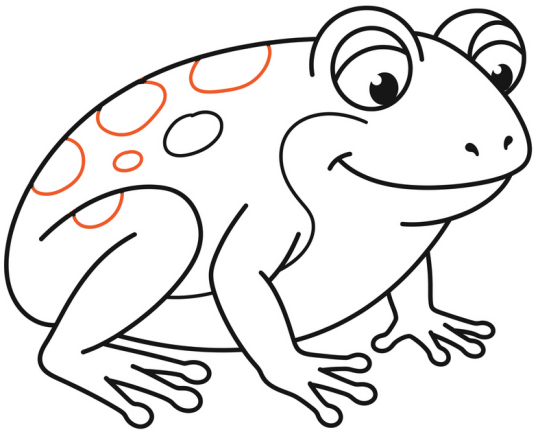
Gray dashes: light guides. Black: kept outlines. Orange: new outlines. Green helpers are not drawing marks.

Optional: add one spot



Draw one small rounded spot inside the back.

Optional: repeat the spots



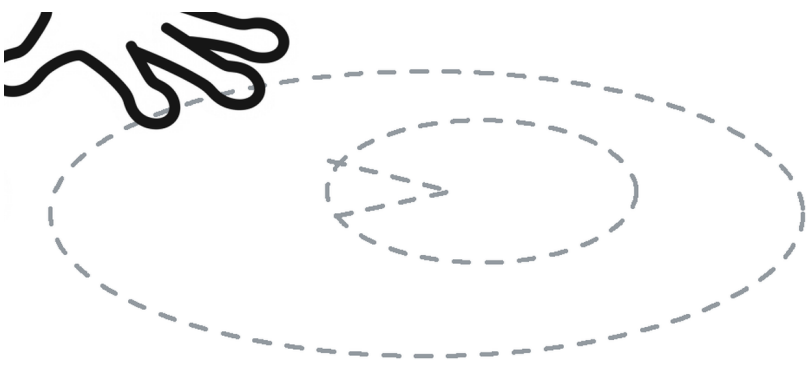
Add a few more rounded spots. At the outer back, stop each spot where the body edge hides its other half.

Try one rounded spot, then repeat or change the pattern.

Optional pond and lily pad

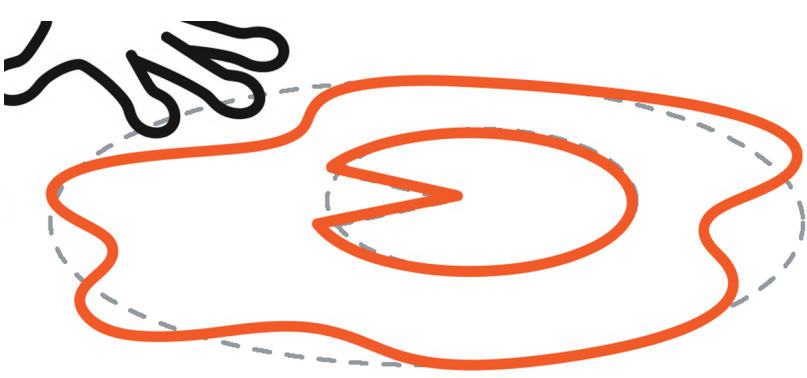
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Optional: plan a pond and lily pad



Sketch a wide oval beside the frog, then a smaller oval inside it. Mark a wedge opening on the left of the smaller oval.

Optional: curve the water and notched pad



Follow the large oval with a loose wavy edge. Follow the smaller oval, turning inward around the wedge and back out to make the lily-pad notch.

Optional: remove the setting guides



Erase the two pond/pad ovals and wedge guide. Keep the water edge and the notched pad.

Use two ovals and a wedge to make a setting; remove those guides afterward.

A small break in the farther leg

Gray dashes: light guides. Black: kept outlines. Orange: new outlines. Green helpers are not drawing marks.

Before: a short gap



Keep the surrounding black lines.

After: join the same curve



Join the two ends of the same leg edge. Keep the belly and the rest of the foot in place.

Join the two ends of the same leg edge. Keep the belly and the rest of the foot in place.

Try it your way

Choose any animal. Cover its detailed pictures and place the main shapes first. Uncover any help whenever you want.

Check room for the limbs, important joins and which shapes sit in front. Move a light guide before adding detail if the placement feels crowded.

Choose your own pattern, object or simple setting. Your curves do not need to match the example exactly.

A helper can point or demonstrate on spare paper while you keep your pencil. Coloring, sharing and another try are optional.

Make another version

Try the main shapes on fresh paper.
Use the lesson to check the difficult joins,
then choose any extra details you want.

Screen guide: fit the page width.

Color Page Prints

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