

HOW TO DRAW

DRAGONS

Easy to follow
AMAZING ART!
Step-by-step



Mark Bergin

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DRAGONS

Mark Bergin



Hatch

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Making a start

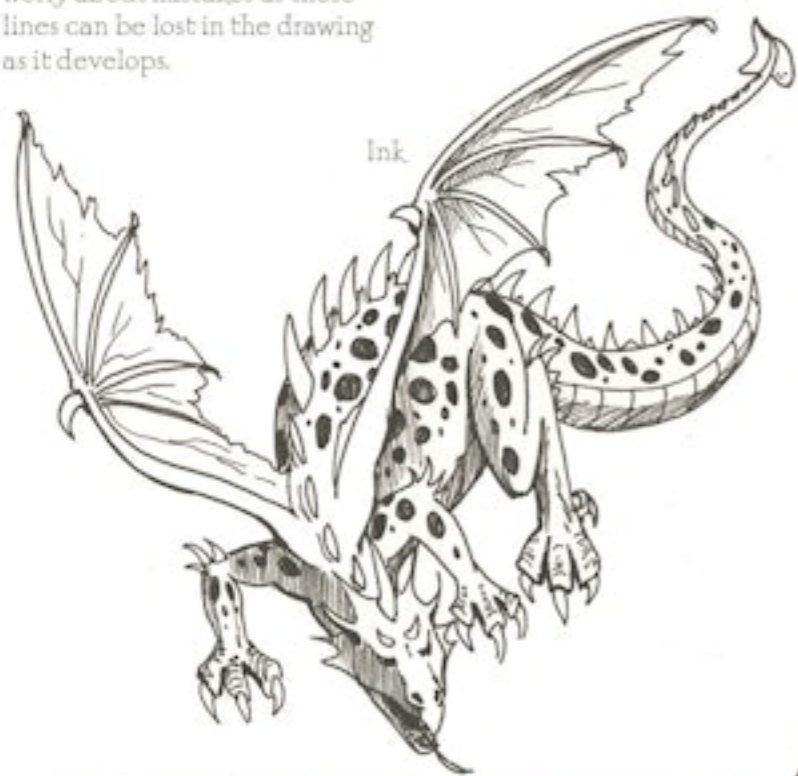
Learning to draw is about looking and seeing. Keep practising and get to know your subject. Use a sketchbook to make quick drawings. Start by doodling, and experiment with shapes and patterns. There are many ways to draw; this book shows only some methods. Visit art galleries, look at artists' drawings, see how friends draw, but above all, find your own way.



Drawing materials

Try using different types of drawing paper and materials. Experiment with charcoal, wax crayons and pastels. All pens, from felt-tips to ballpoints, will make interesting marks – you could also try drawing with pen and ink on wet paper.

Lines drawn in **ink** cannot be erased, so keep your ink drawings sketchy and less rigid. Don't worry about mistakes as these lines can be lost in the drawing as it develops.



Ink



Silhouette

Silhouette is a style of drawing which mainly uses solid black shapes.

Pencil



Hard pencils are greyer and soft pencils are blacker. Hard pencils are graded from 6H (the hardest) through 5H, 4H, 3H and 2H to H. Soft pencils are graded from B, 2B, 3B, 4B and 5B up to 6B (the softest).



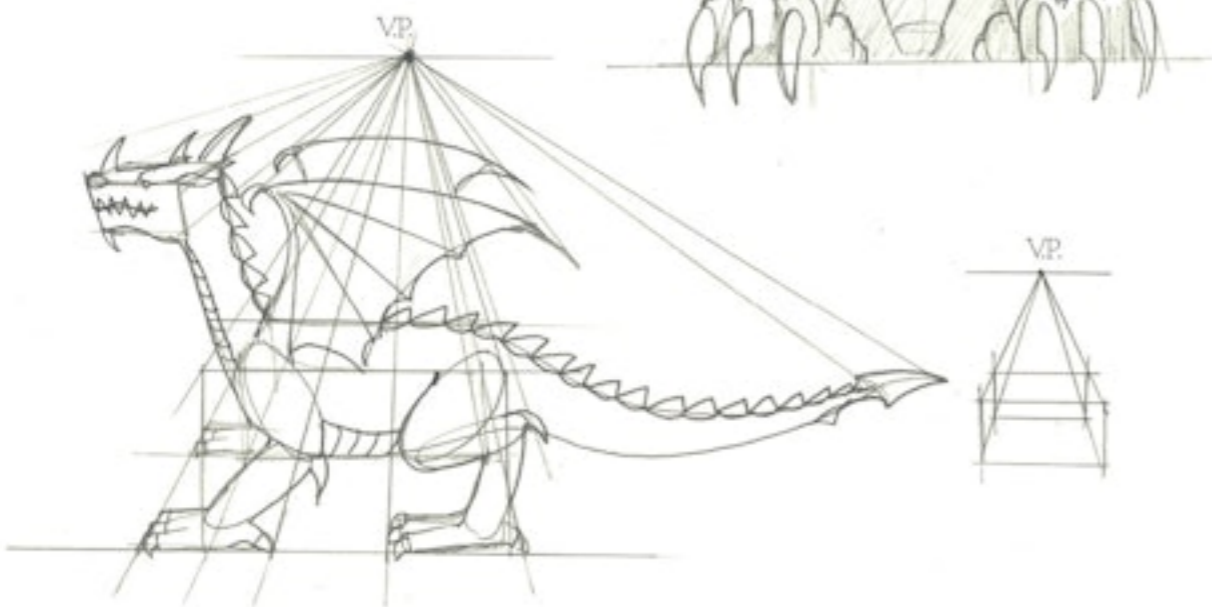
Felt-tip

Pastels are even softer than charcoal, and come in a wide range of colours. Ask an adult to spray your pastel drawing with fixative to prevent it from smudging.

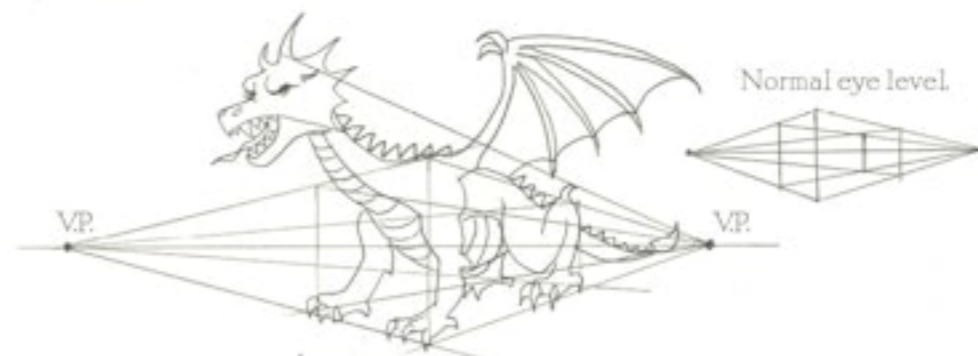
Perspective

If you look at any object from different viewpoints, you will see that the part that is closest to you looks larger, and the part furthest away from you looks smaller. Drawing in perspective is a way of creating a feeling of depth - of showing three dimensions on a flat surface.

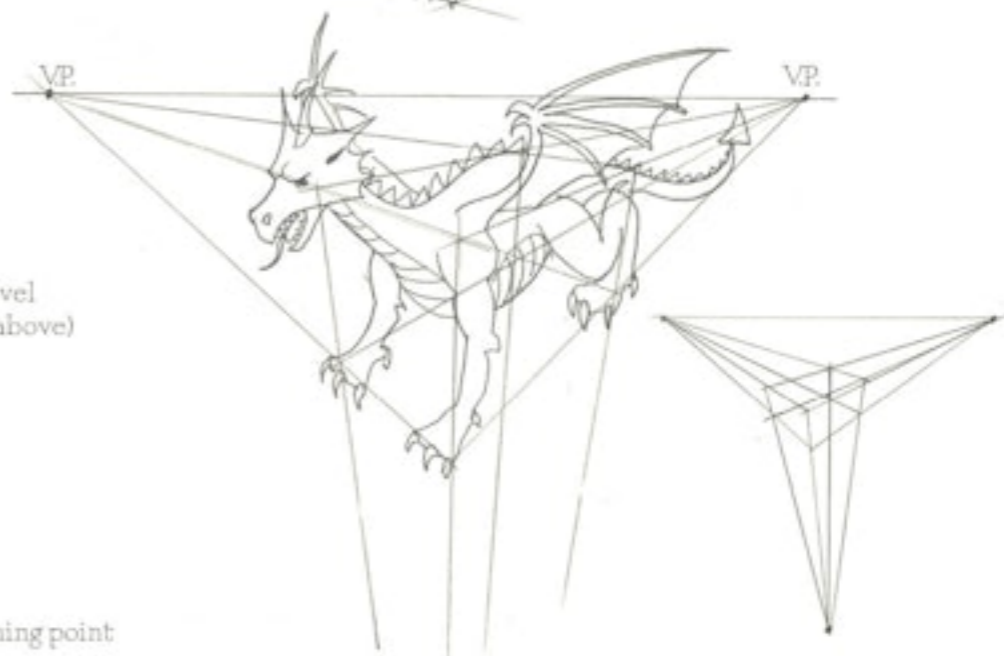
The vanishing point (V.P.) is the place in a perspective drawing where parallel lines appear to meet. The position of the vanishing point depends on the viewer's eye level. Sometimes a low viewpoint can give your drawing added drama.



Two-point perspective uses two vanishing points one for lines running along the length of the object, and one on the opposite side for lines running across the width of the object.



High eye level (view from above)



V.P. = vanishing point

References

There are many different types of dragon from numerous cultures around the world. When creating your own dragons you can use these references to help you with your drawing.



The Welsh dragon is the emblem that appears on the Welsh flag.



St. George and the dragon is a famous English story and has been depicted in many ways by different artists.



Chinese dragons are often drawn as long, thin, scaly creatures with four legs and no wings.



A Wyvern is a type of dragon with one set of wings and only two legs.

Give some thought to how many legs and wings you would like your dragon to have before you create it.

Dragon head

This fearsome looking dragon head has horns, sharp teeth and scales. Follow the simple construction lines to draw each head in these different poses and viewpoints.

This dragon head, seen from the front, shows the mouth open with a long, lizard-like tongue snaking out.



Sleeping dragon

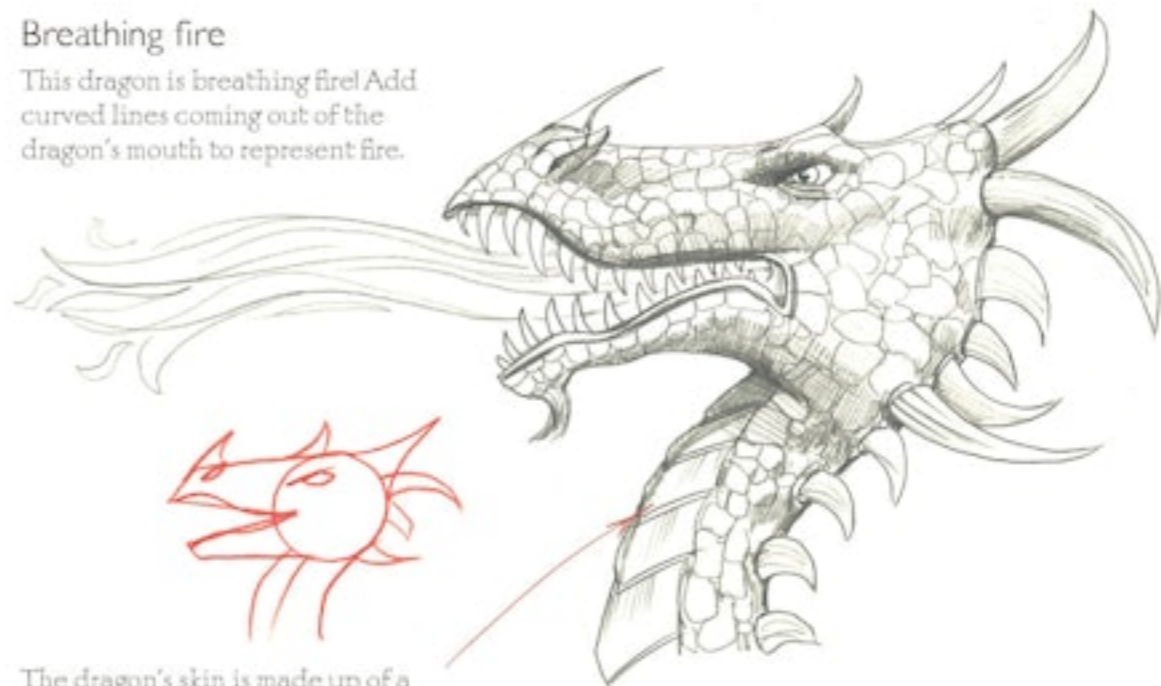


This sleeping dragon has its eyes shut and has wisps of smoke coming from its nostrils.

The teeth overlap the edges of the mouth when it is closed.

Breathing fire

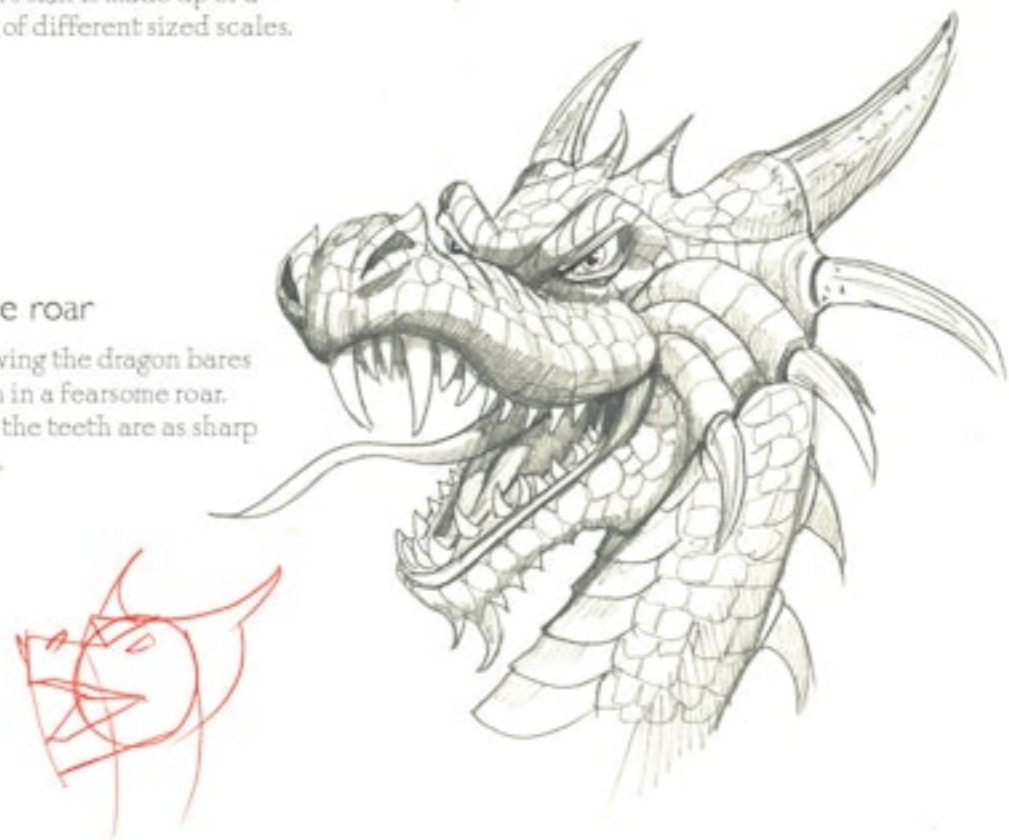
This dragon is breathing fire! Add curved lines coming out of the dragon's mouth to represent fire.



The dragon's skin is made up of a patchwork of different sized scales.

Fearsome roar

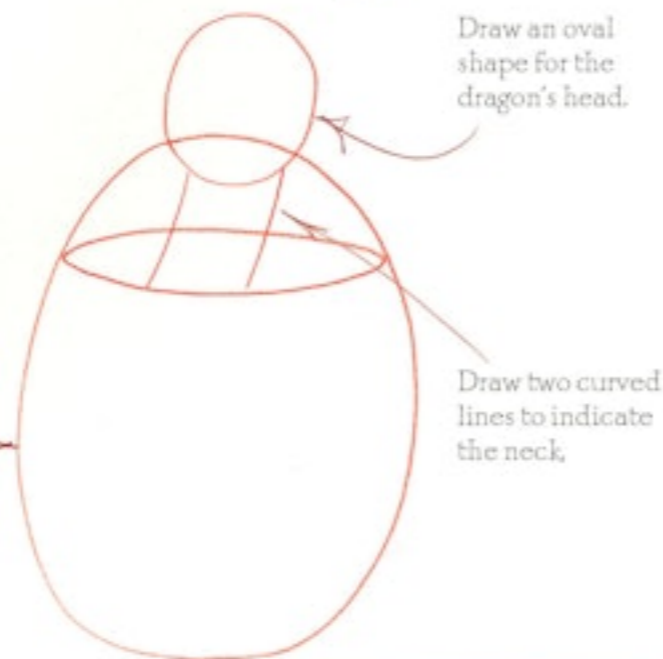
In this drawing the dragon bares all its teeth in a fearsome roar. Make sure the teeth are as sharp as possible.



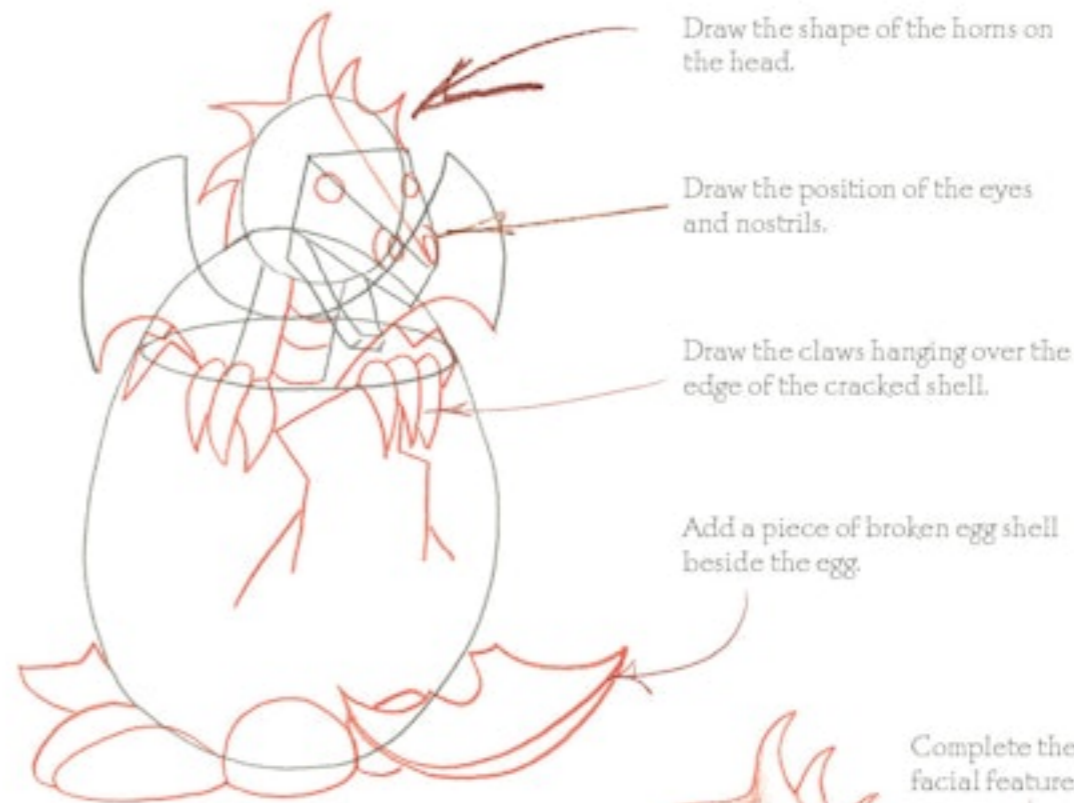
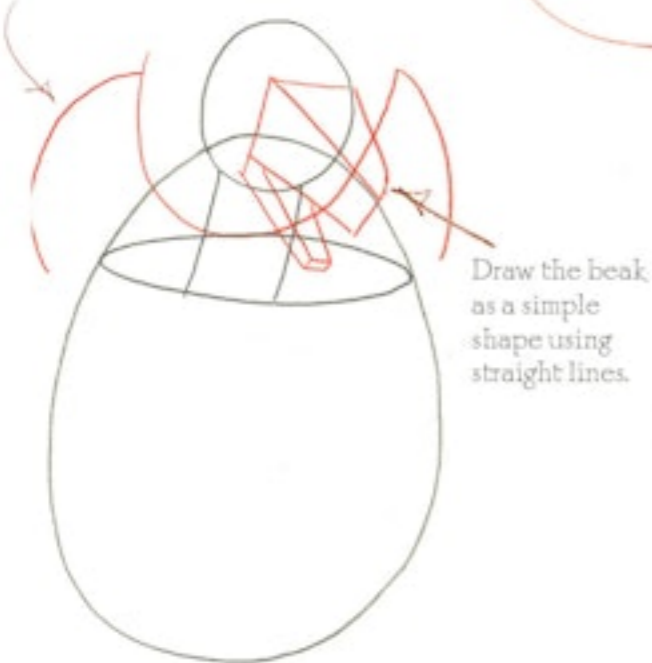
Birth of a dragon

A baby dragon hatches from an egg. Draw the dragon emerging from the cracked egg.

Draw a large oval for the egg.



Add the basic wing shapes using curved lines.



Add scales to the dragon's neck.

Draw more detail into the wings, adding folded skin.

Use straight lines to create cracks down the shell.

Add shading to the egg to give it a three dimensional effect.



Sleeping dragon

A dragon sleeping peacefully in its den makes for a very interesting composition.

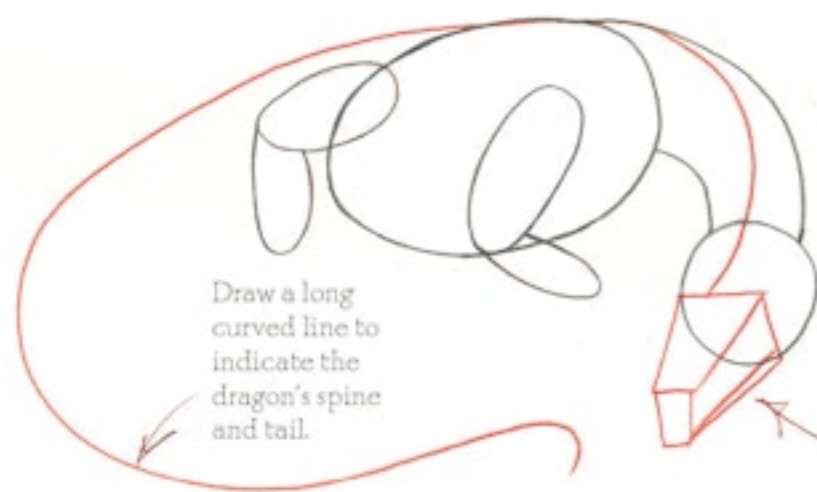
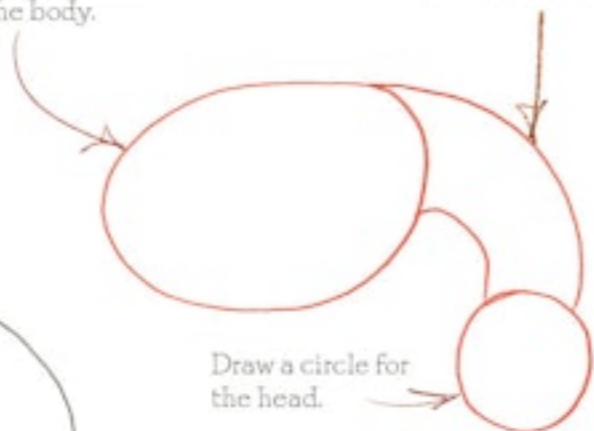
Start by drawing a large oval for the body.

Draw two curved lines for the neck.

Draw a circle for the head.



Draw simple shapes for the legs.



Draw a long curved line to indicate the dragon's spine and tail.

Draw the basic shape of the face using straight lines.

Start to add the shape of the tail.

Sketch the structure of the wings.

Draw the horns around the head.

Add simple shapes for the feet.



Add the eyes and nostrils.



Sketch in a simple shape for each foot.

Add three toes and talons.

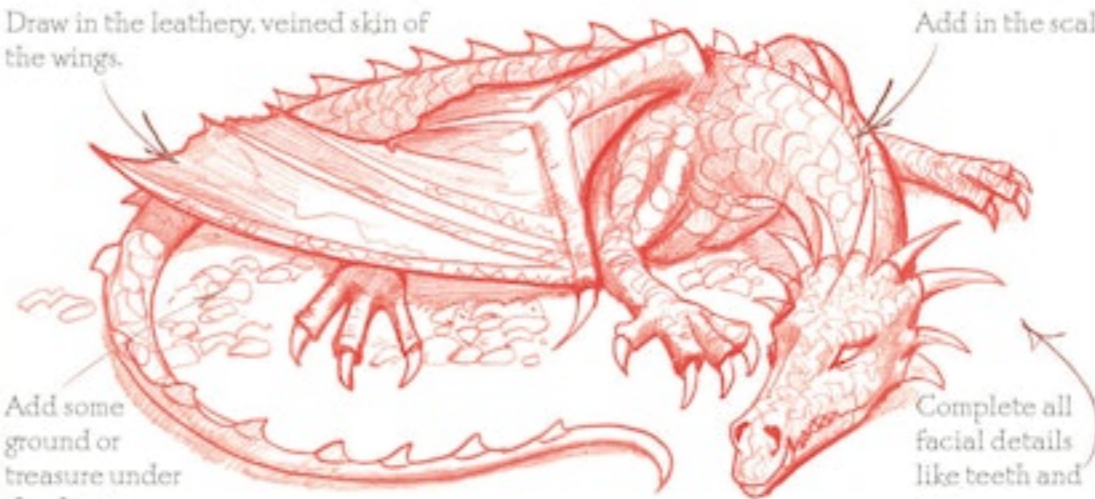
Finish the claw off by adding skin detail.

Draw in the leathery, veined skin of the wings.

Add in the scales.

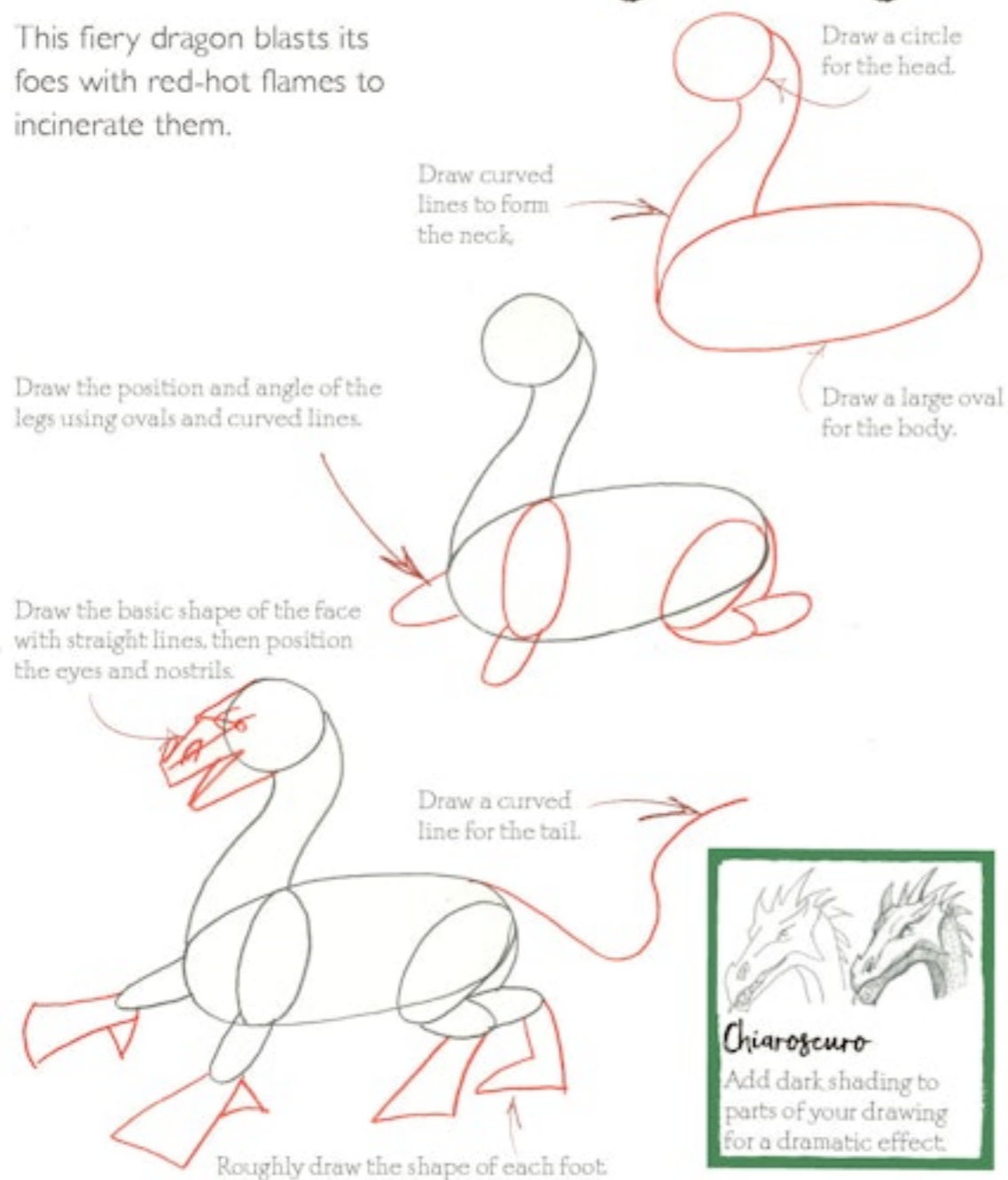
Add some ground or treasure under the dragon.

Complete all facial details like teeth and eyes.



Fire-breathing dragon

This fiery dragon blasts its foes with red-hot flames to incinerate them.



Draw the shape of the wings using curved lines.

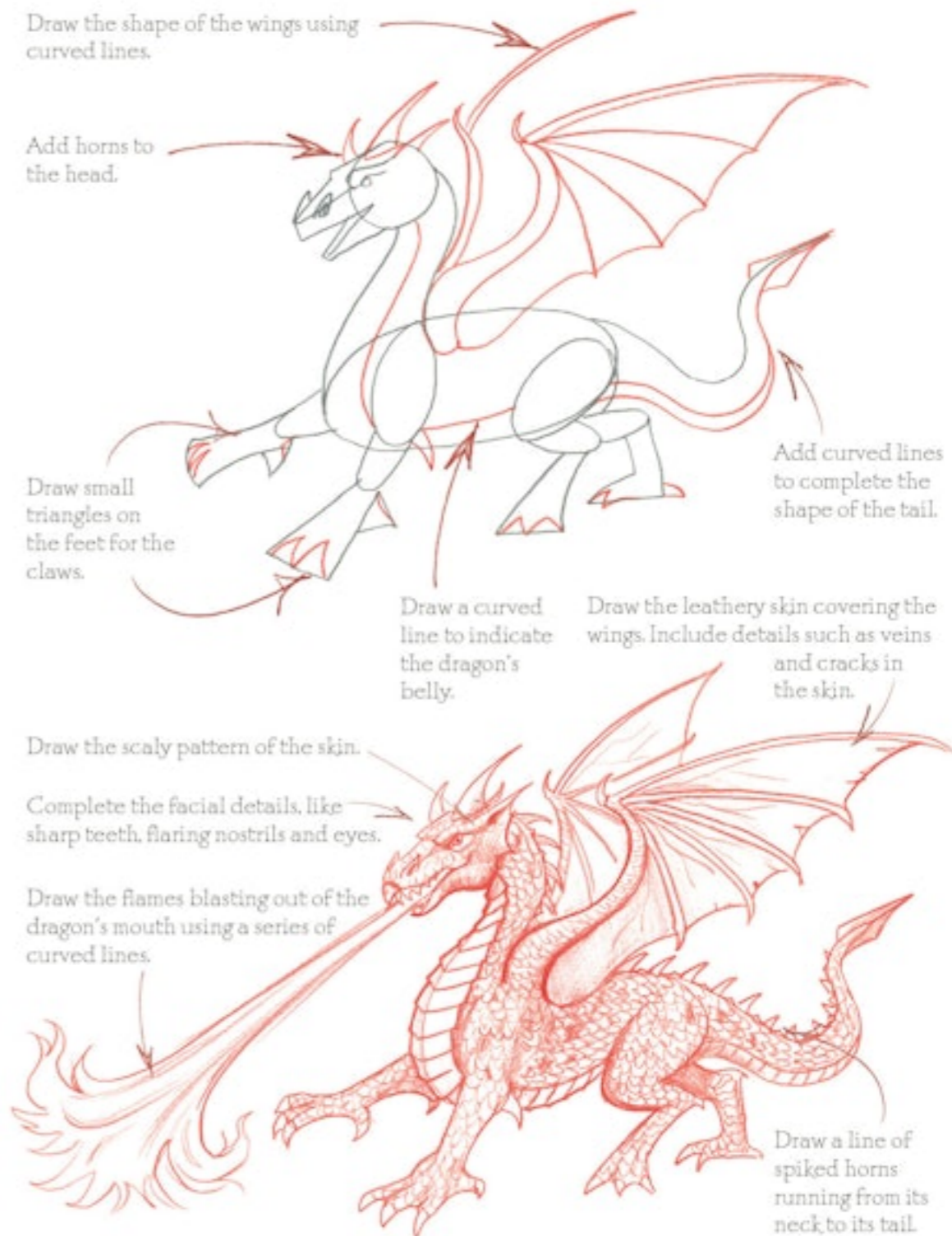
Add horns to the head.

Draw small triangles on the feet for the claws.

Draw a curved line to indicate the dragon's belly.

Complete the facial details, like sharp teeth, flaring nostrils and eyes.

Draw the flames blasting out of the dragon's mouth using a series of curved lines.



The wise dragon

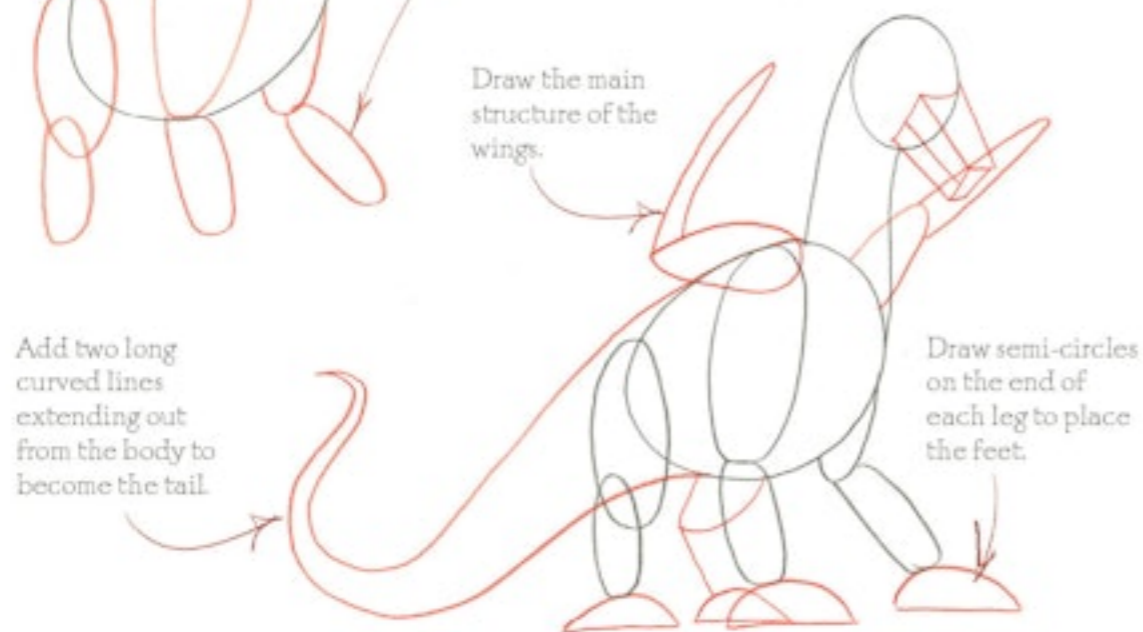
The ancient dragon offers wise advice and insight to those brave enough to ask!

Add the shape of the face using straight lines.



Draw the shape of the legs using ovals.

Draw the main structure of the wings.

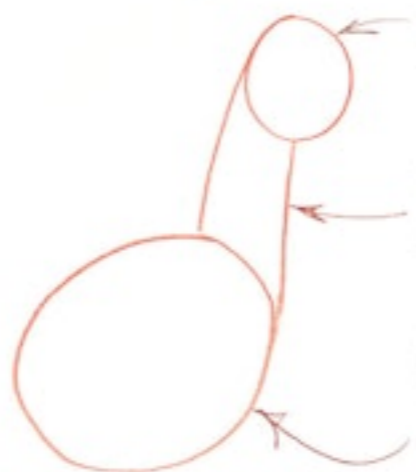


Add two long curved lines extending out from the body to become the tail.

Draw a circle for the head.

Draw curved lines for the neck.

Draw a large oval for the body.



Using long, curving lines, draw the rib-like structure that forms the shape of the dragon's wing.

Draw the head with its spiky horns.

Add small talons at the tips of the wings.

Draw large scales on the dragon's belly.

Using the semi-circles as a guide, draw claws on the feet.

Draw a row of pointed scales running up the tail and spine.

Finish off the detail of the wings.

Add the scaly skin.

Complete the head's detail.

Add a small figure talking to the dragon to give a sense of its scale.



Perched dragon

This dragon is perched on a large rock waiting patiently for its next victim to appear.

Draw a circle for the head.

Draw two curved lines for the neck.

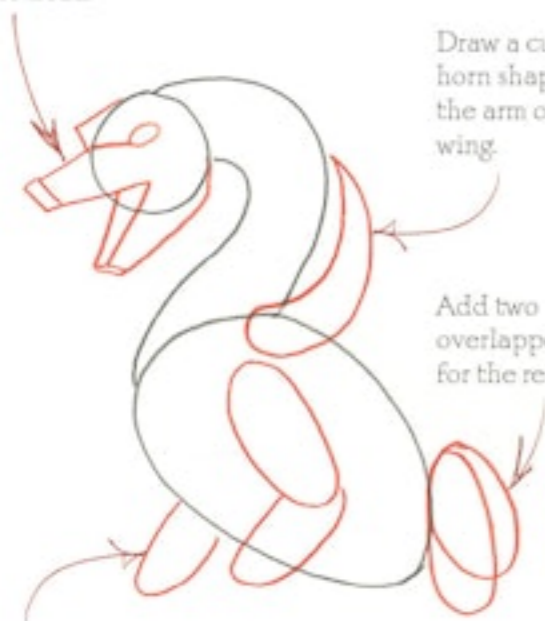


Draw in the basic shape of the head.

Draw a curved horn shape for the arm of the wing.

Add two overlapped ovals for the rear leg.

Draw a large oval for the body.



Draw in the front legs using simple shapes.



Add horns to the head.

Draw in a curved line for the tongue.

Draw a line to indicate the belly.

Add on the feet and claws.



Draw curved lines for the shape of the wings.

Add details of the dragon's head, remembering the sharp teeth and pointed tongue.



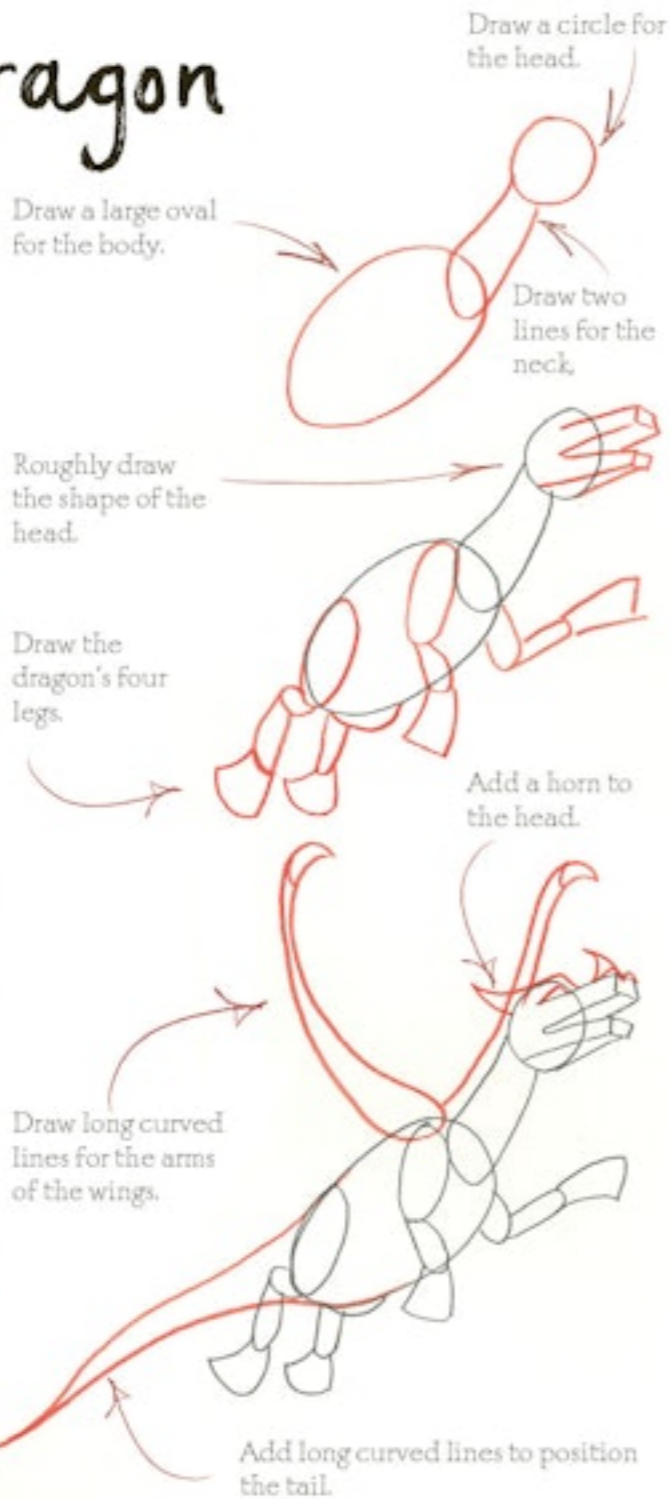
Draw two long lines coming to a point for the tail.

Draw the leathery veined skin of the wings. Add interesting details like tears and holes.

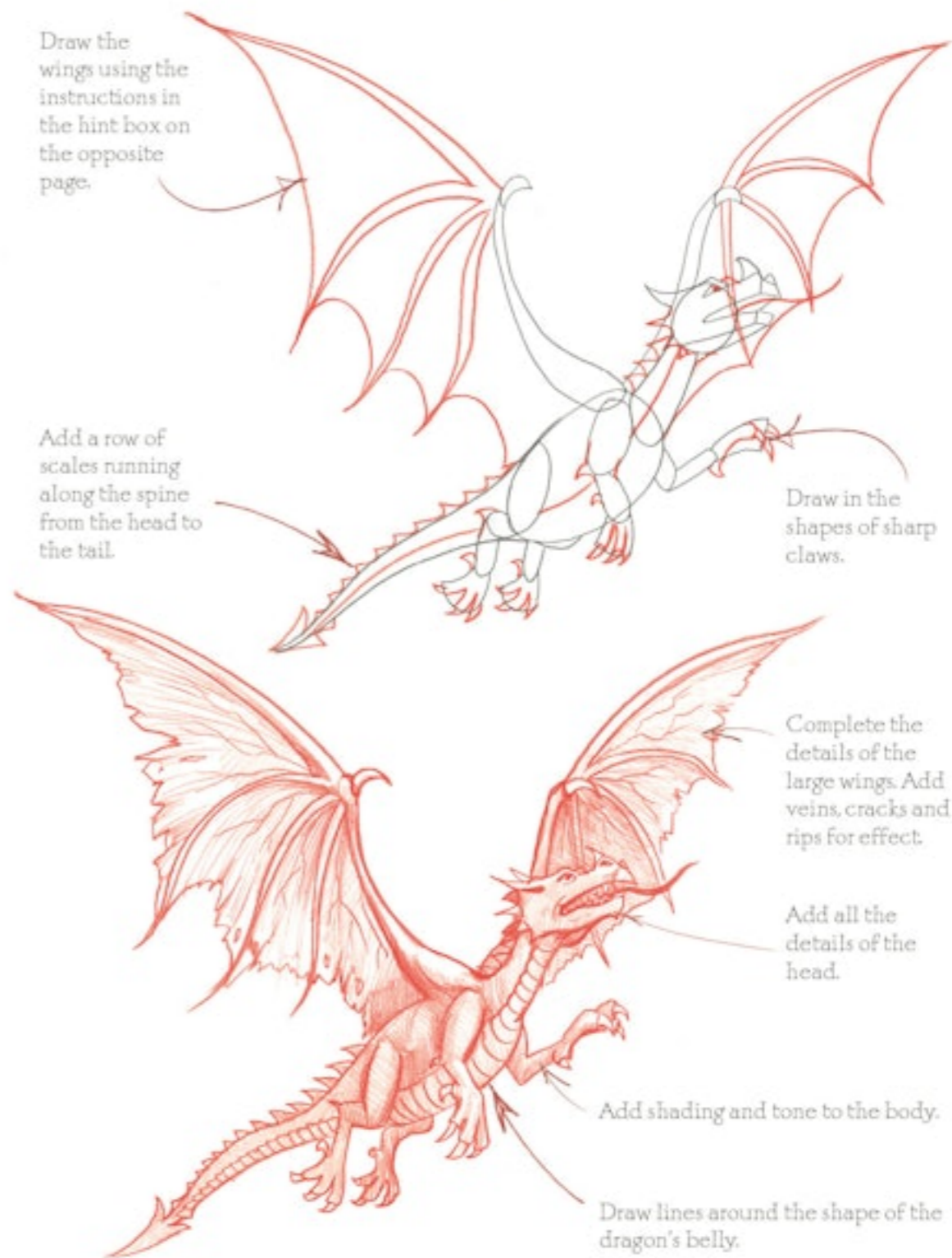
Draw the rock the dragon is perched on.

Flying dragon

A dragon in flight is a majestic sight. With its powerful wings extended it can fly through the air at astonishing speeds.



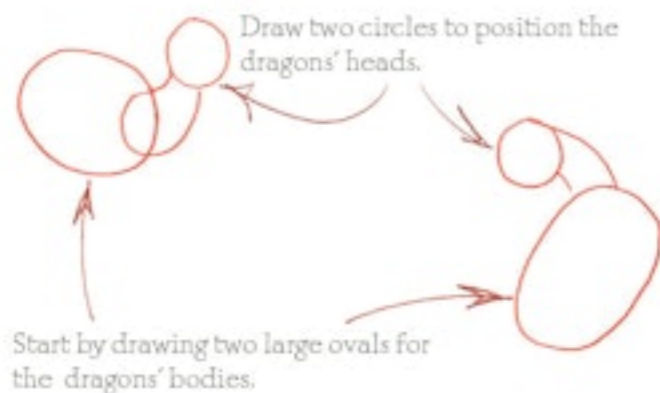
Draw the wings using the instructions in the hint box on the opposite page.



Battling dragons

Two dragons confront one another to do battle in the sky. Who will be the winner in this ferocious fight?

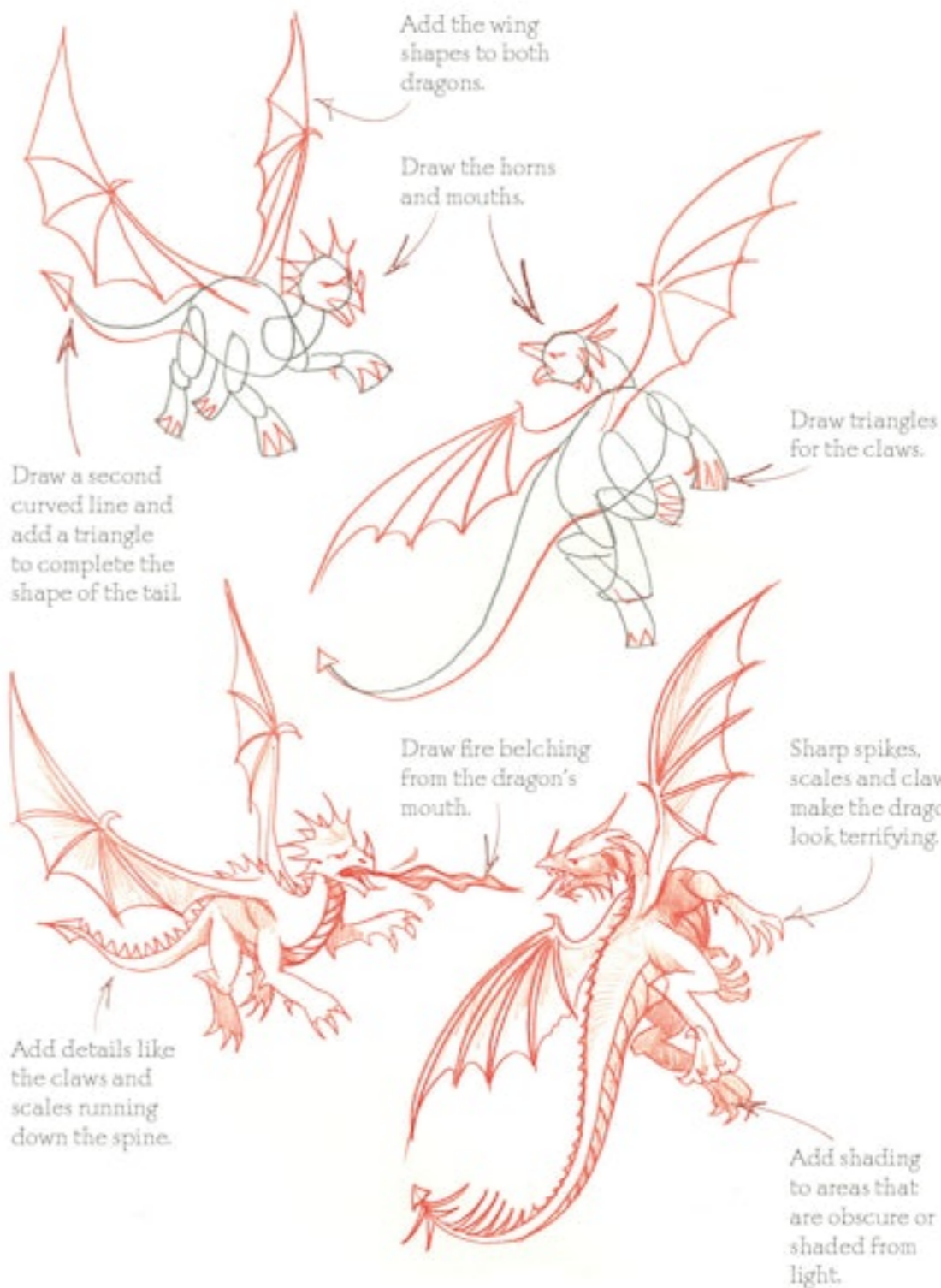
Add long curved lines to each dragon to position the tails.



Draw each dragon's legs, sketching in their shape simply.

Construction lines

Construction lines should always be drawn lightly. That way you can easily erase them when you finish the drawing.



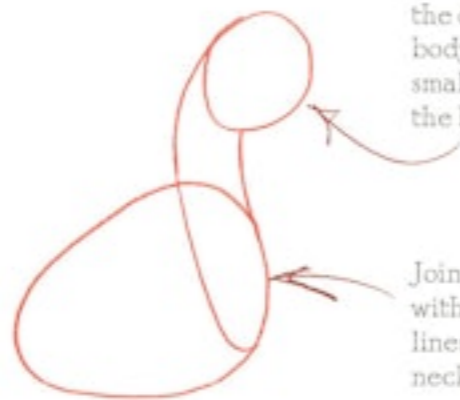
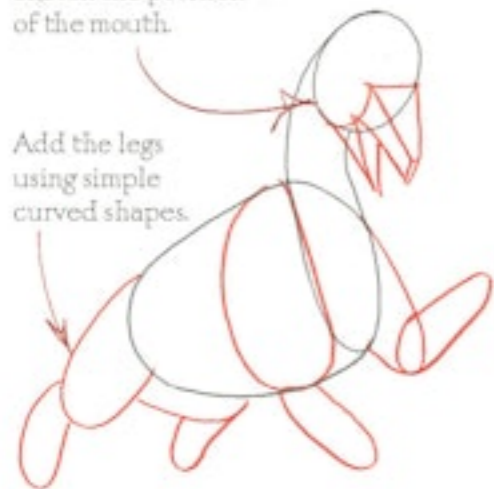
Dragon and slayer

Many tales are told of brave knights who set off to confront a dragon. Will any of these warriors survive the battle ahead?

Sketch the position of the mouth.

Add the legs using simple curved shapes.

Sketch the position of the tail with one long curved line.



Start by drawing a large oval for the dragon's body and a smaller one for the head.

Join both shapes with two curved lines for the neck.

Extend the back of the dragon's head outwards in a fan shape.

Add the eyes, ears, nostrils and tongue.

Roughly draw the shape of each foot.



Draw the dragon's large wings with a series of curved lines.

Add claw shapes to each foot.

Complete the shape of the tail with a second long curving line.

Add the scales of the chest and belly.

Complete the details of the head, including fearsome teeth and spiked nostrils.

Draw small knights fighting the ferocious dragon.

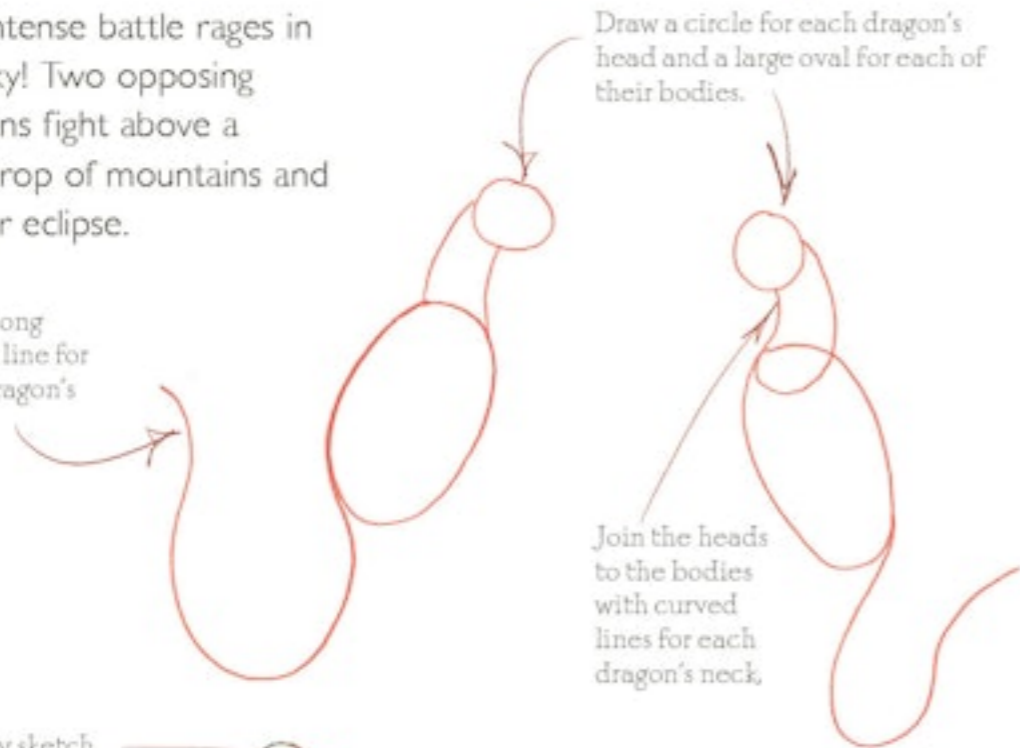
Complete all details, adding shading to all areas with less light.



Fire and ice dragons

An intense battle rages in the sky! Two opposing dragons fight above a backdrop of mountains and a solar eclipse.

Add a long curved line for each dragon's tail.

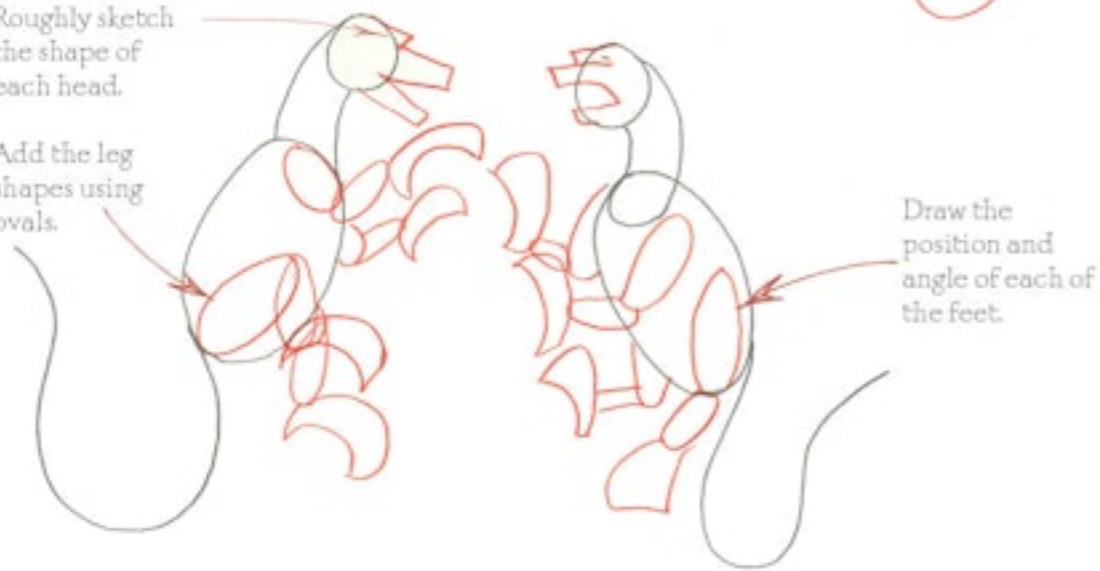


Draw a circle for each dragon's head and a large oval for each of their bodies.

Join the heads to the bodies with curved lines for each dragon's neck.

Roughly sketch the shape of each head.

Add the leg shapes using ovals.



Draw the position and angle of each of the feet.

Draw the basic structure of the wings.

Add details and horns to both heads.

Indicate the dragon's belly with a curved line.



Start adding the shape of the claws.

Add pointed crests running the length of the spine and tail.

Finish off the dragon's wings by adding tone and battle scars.

Complete the details of the dragons' heads.

Draw flames coming out of one dragon's mouth.

Complete the scales on the underside or belly of the dragon.



Add a dramatic background of mountains and a blacked-out sun.

Glossary

Chiaroscuro The practice of drawing high contrast pictures with a lot of black and white, but not much grey.

Composition The arrangement of the parts of a picture on the drawing paper.

Construction lines Guidelines used in the early stages of a drawing. They are usually erased later.

Fixative A type of resin used to spray over a finished drawing to prevent smudging. **It should only be used by an adult.**

Light source The direction from which the light seems to come in a drawing.

Perspective A method of drawing in which near objects are shown larger than faraway objects to give an impression of depth.

Pose The position assumed by a figure.

Proportion The correct relationship of scale between each part of the drawing.

Silhouette A drawing that shows only a flat dark shape, like a shadow.

Vanishing point The place in a perspective drawing where parallel lines appear to meet.

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