



# **I Can't Draw...Until I Practice!**

## **Flowers & Insects**



This step by step "how to draw" book will help build confidence in the ability to draw. You will be learning to draw like I draw. I looked at real objects and photographs and made up the steps. The best way to learn how to draw is by looking at three dimensional objects (real things). Included, in these pages, are photographs of a few of the objects I looked at to draw these step-by-step instructions. Whether I learn to draw from "how to" sheets, photographs, or real objects, I begin by looking for simple lines and shapes and drawing what I see. We can learn to draw if we really want to. As with any skill, how good we get depends on how much we practice.

This step-by-step format is used in many "how to draw" books. The learner compares each step with the next step to see what new lines or shapes have been added. Then, add the shapes or lines to our own drawing. Observing, identifying & analyzing lines & shapes, builds higher order thinking skills (strengthens the brain). That's how I created the images in this book. Photographs included were taken either by my husband, Sonny Polnick, or me.



When I taught art lessons, to large groups, I used cloth flower arrangements in painted coffee cans. Each painted can had the same variety of flowers. That way every student had the chance to practice the flowers I demonstrated drawing or other flowers from the object in front of them, instead of copying from my drawing. The results were much more individual, diversified, interesting, expressive, and creative. Seeing all the different ways there are to draw the same thing makes my heart happy.

At home, I prefer to draw from live flowers. I grow a small variety for cutting and drawing, or simply enjoying. I love diversity.

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## **I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Practice to Picture**

Please don't think of these step-by-step lessons as the end result. Step-by-step "helps" are just that. They help you feel comfortable drawing the object. Once comfortable, think of ways to use what was learned to draw a fun picture.



These are a few fun pictures students made with what they learned about how to draw flowers. There are an infinite number of possibilities.



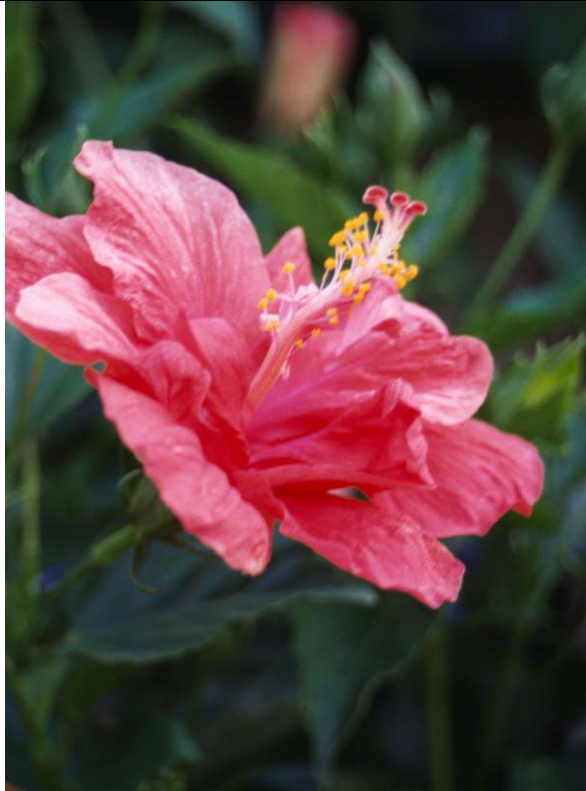
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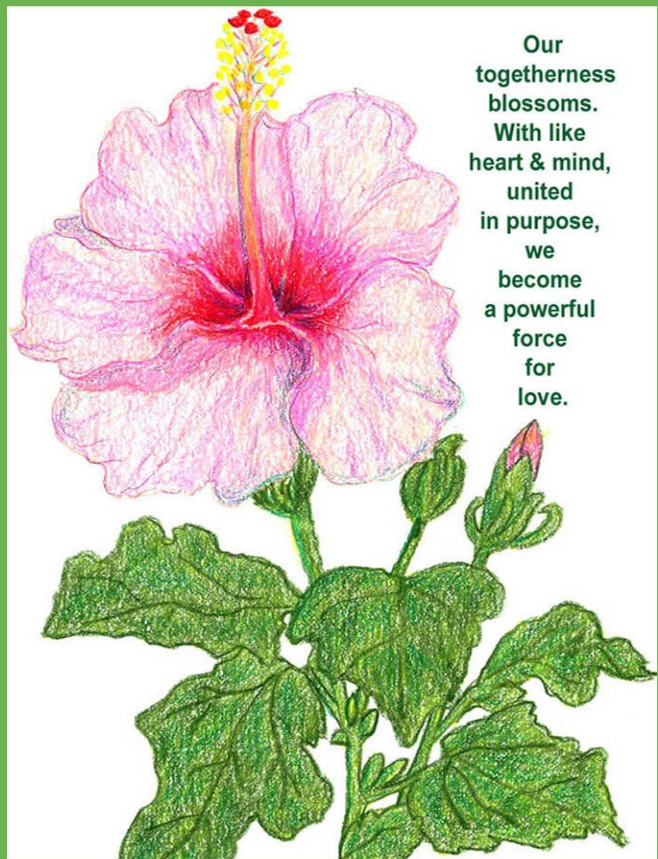
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## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Practice to Picture



Above is a photograph of a hibiscus flower that was growing on a bush in the yard. I sketched many of the flowers on the bush. These two "finished" drawings were done by me, at different times. Both are Hibiscus flowers. One is realistic; the other is more stylized. The realistic one I drew just to see how close to the real thing I could get. This type of drawing takes more concentration, patience, and time. The image with words was made as a card for a friend.

More of my art work can be viewed in the [Expanding Heart Content](#). There are some flower designs in the Card section.



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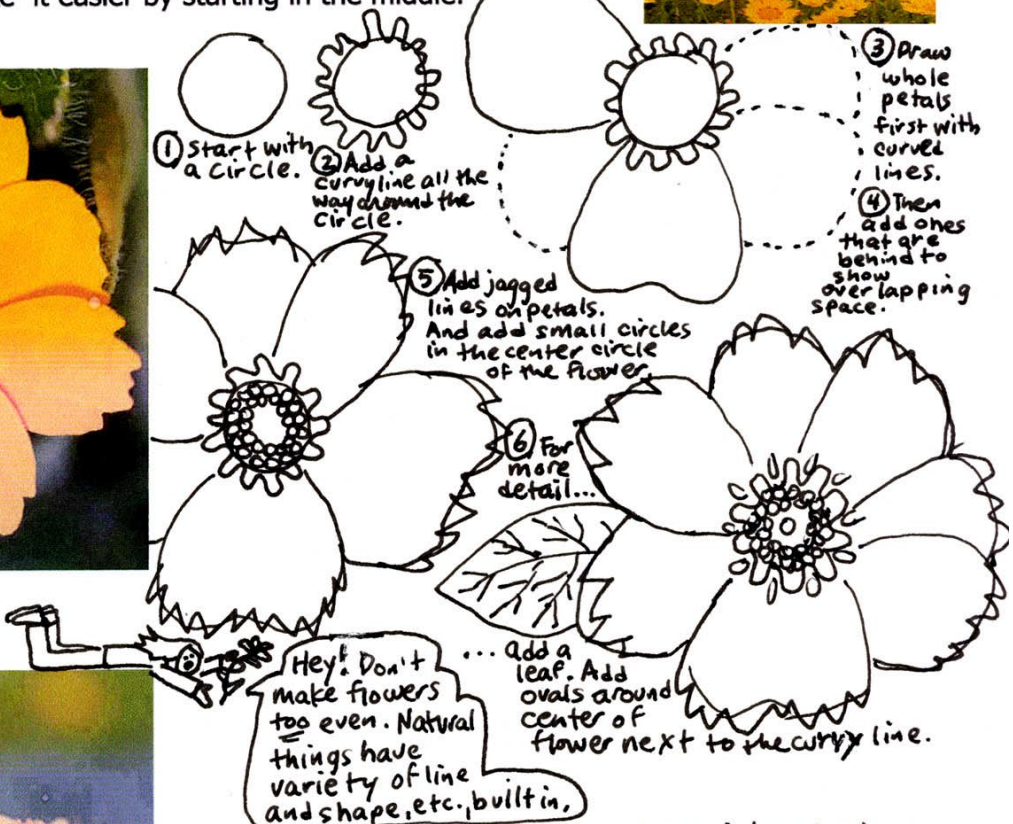
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# I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! A Simple Flower

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I look at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw images. Step-by-step lessons build confidence. But drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.

Build your confidence by drawing a simple flower step by step. Once you learn how simple it is, you can practice on your own. Draw from real flowers or photographs. Look for the shapes and lines. Look! Look! Look and then draw. Spend more time observing than drawing. Draw what you actually see (all the crooked, uneven lines and shapes), not what you think you see. When drawing a close-up of a flower, make it easier by starting in the middle.



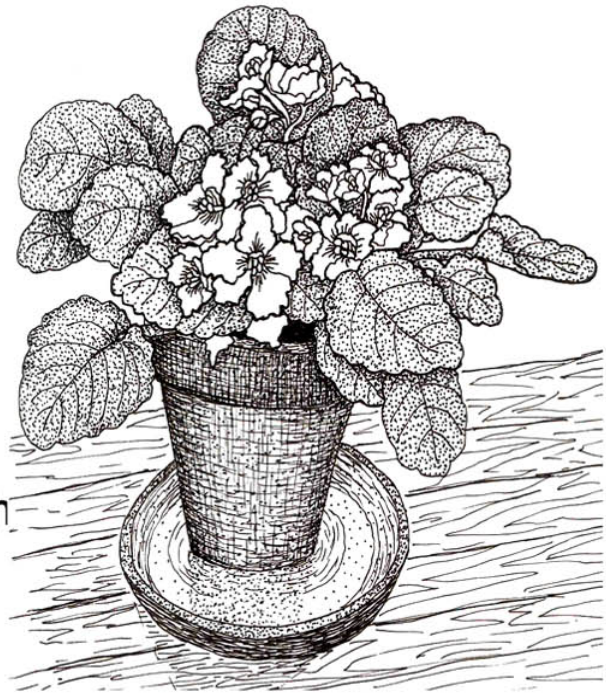
Now... see if you can follow the pictorial step by step sequence below without written instructions. The key is to compare each new step with the last one to figure out what lines and shapes have been added.



# I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! African Violets

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.

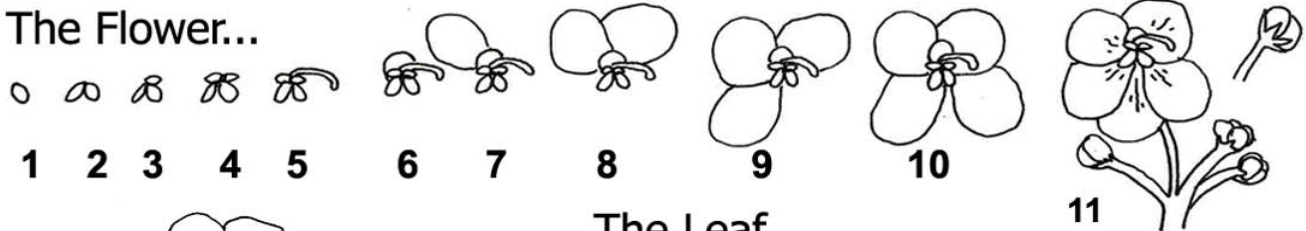
A friend gave me a pot of African Violets. They were so beautiful; I had to draw them. First I made a pencil sketch. From the pencil sketch, I made this black and white illustration. Then, I thought about how to draw it out step by step for you.



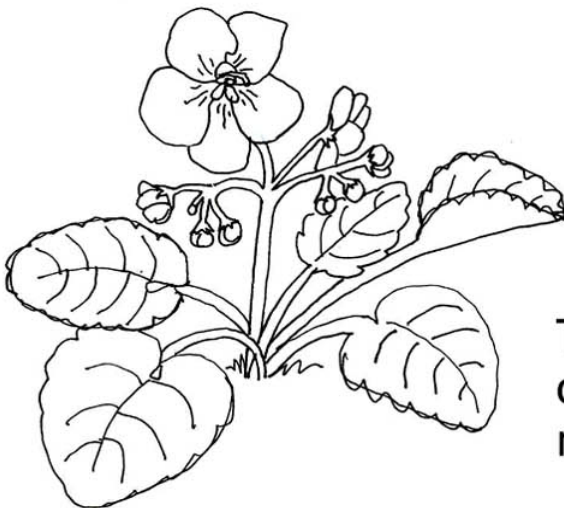
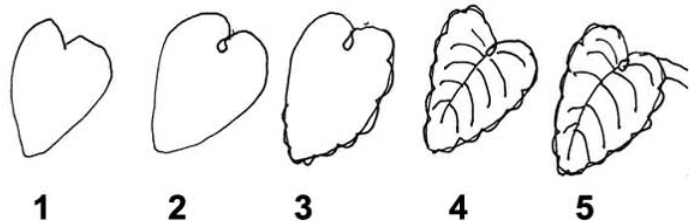
Each step must be compared with the one before to see what lines and/or shapes have been added. Then, add what you see.

Read the steps like a book, from left to right.

The Flower...



The Leaf...



This last illustration is a small section of the plant. Start simple and add more as you go. Happy drawing!

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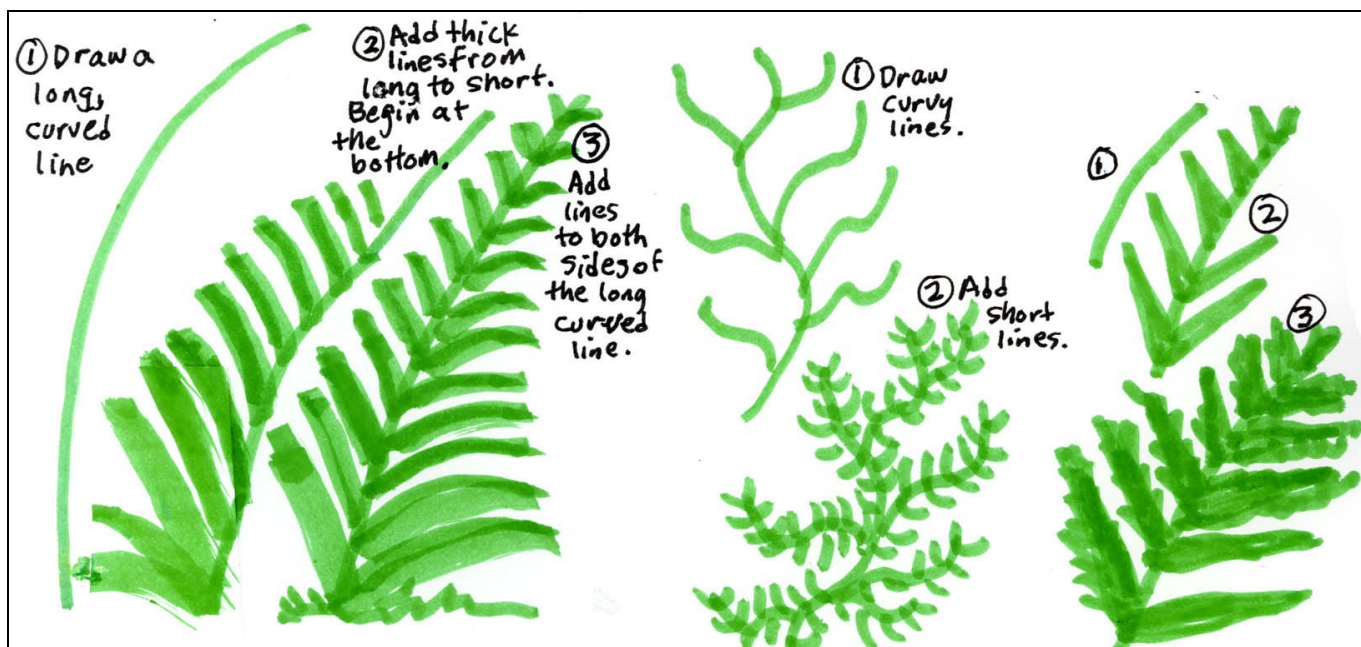
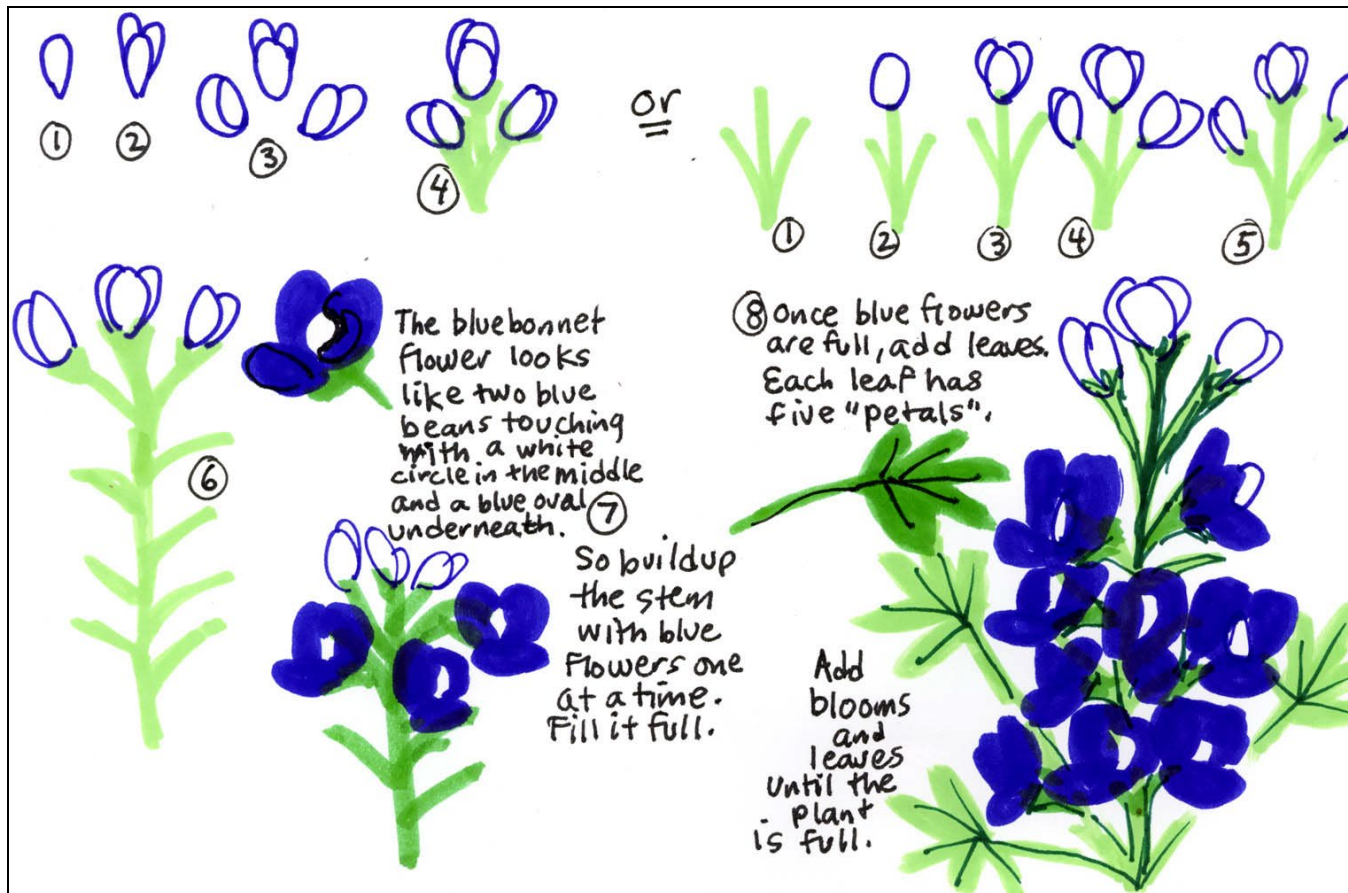
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# I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Bluebonnets & Ferns

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.



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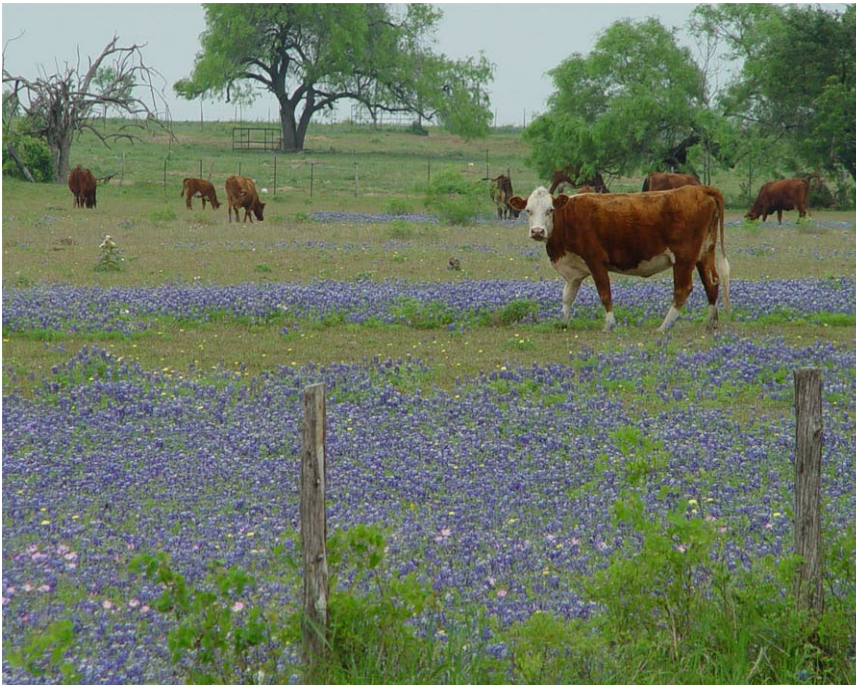
## **I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Photographs**

These are photos my husband and I took of Bluebonnets. The roadsides, outside of Houston, Texas, are filled with Bluebonnets and other wildflowers in the spring. Sometimes I take photographs so later I can practice drawing what I have seen.



It's beneficial to practice drawing close up images, as well as mid-range, and distant compositions. I stretch my ability by drawing things I've never drawn before.

The photo below is from a farm in Schulenburg, Texas.



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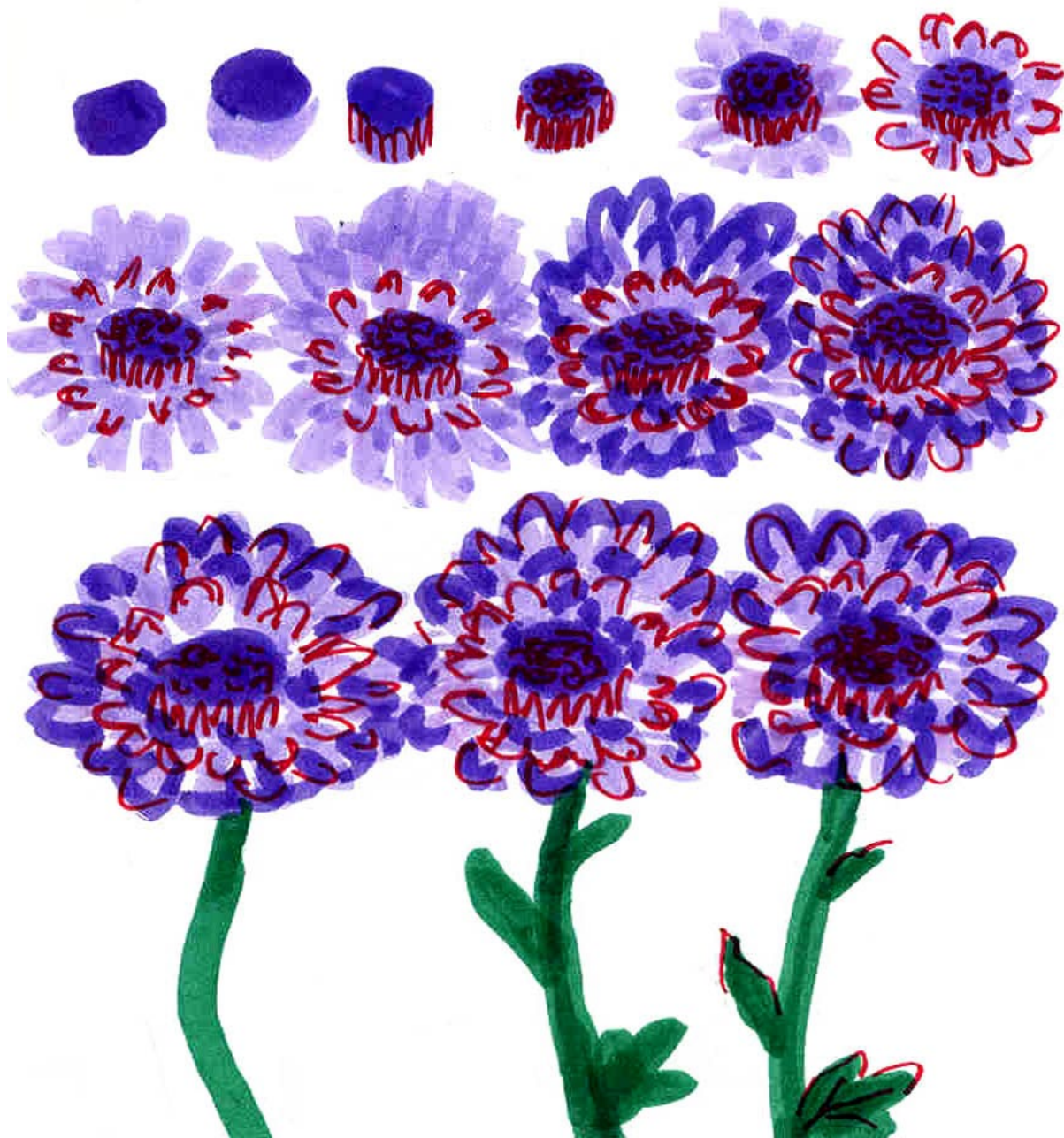
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## **I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Chrysanthemums**

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This step by step is a little rough draft, but don't let that stop you from practicing it and trying it in many different colors. Why not make a multi-colored bouquet.



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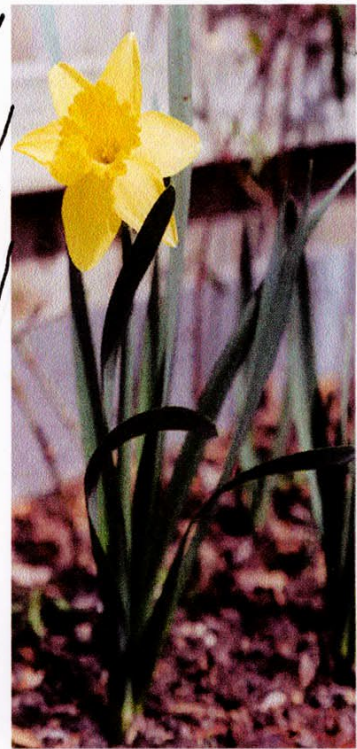
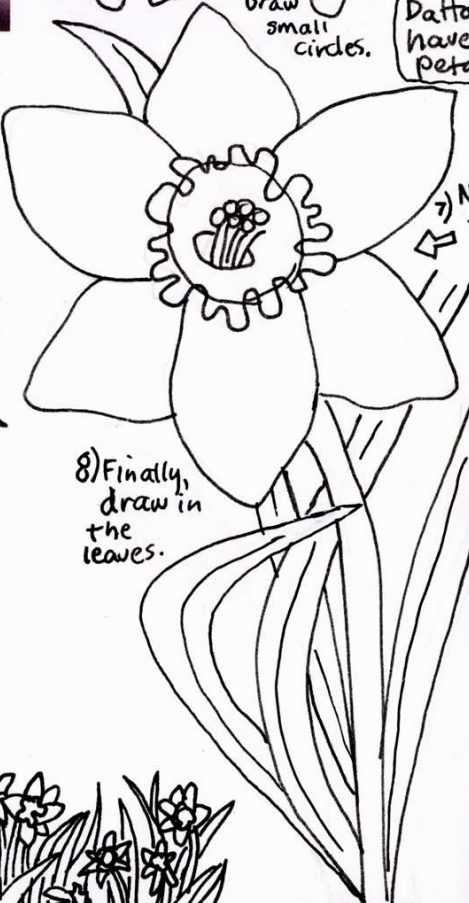
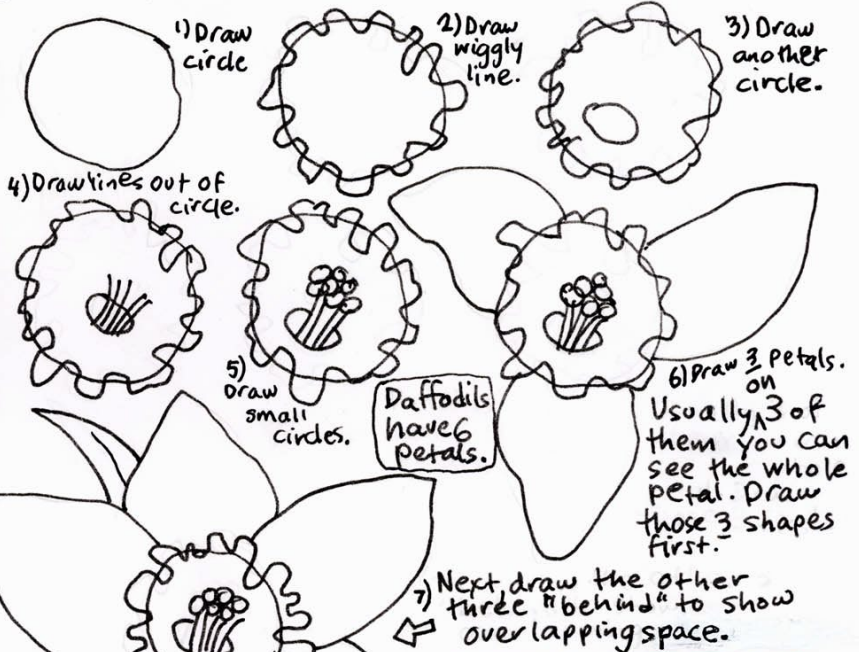


# I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Daffodils

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.



Using these photographs I took and sketches I drew, see if you can figure out your own style of step by step. Do it over again and over again if you want to master the skill.



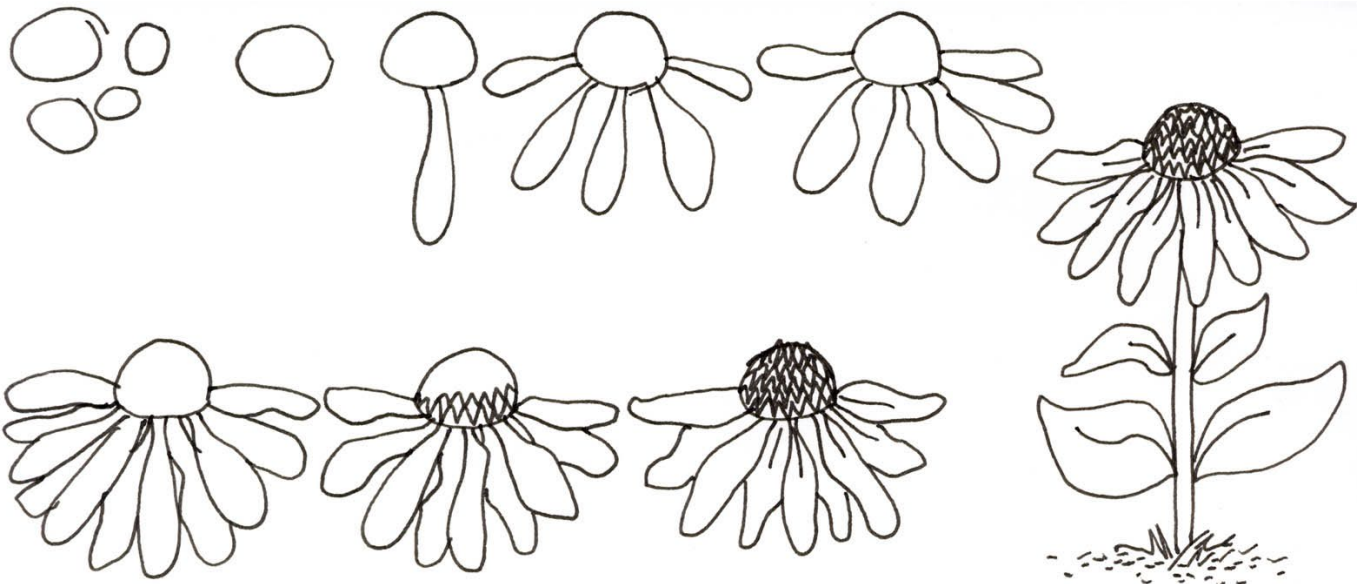
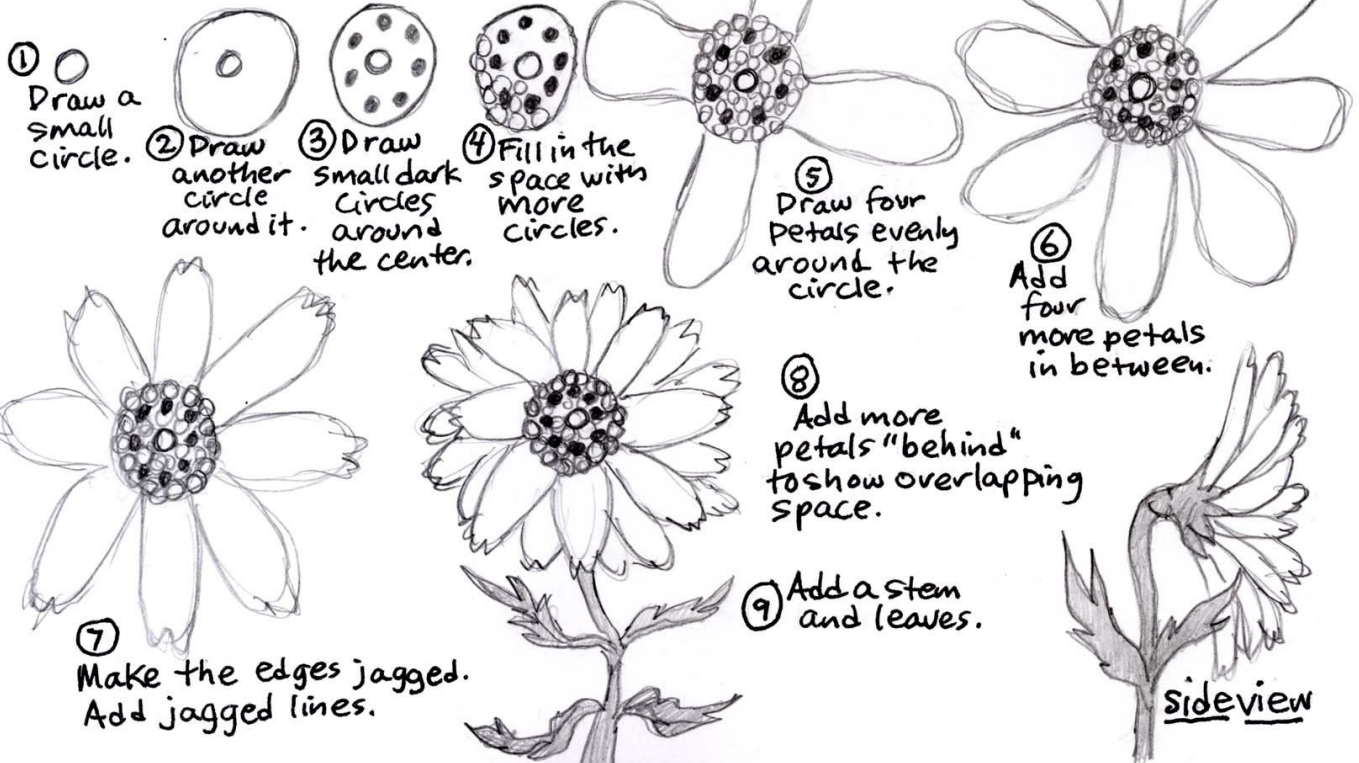
Daffodils have long, thick lines for stems and long, thin leaves.



# I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Daisies

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.

Draw a Daisy step by step...



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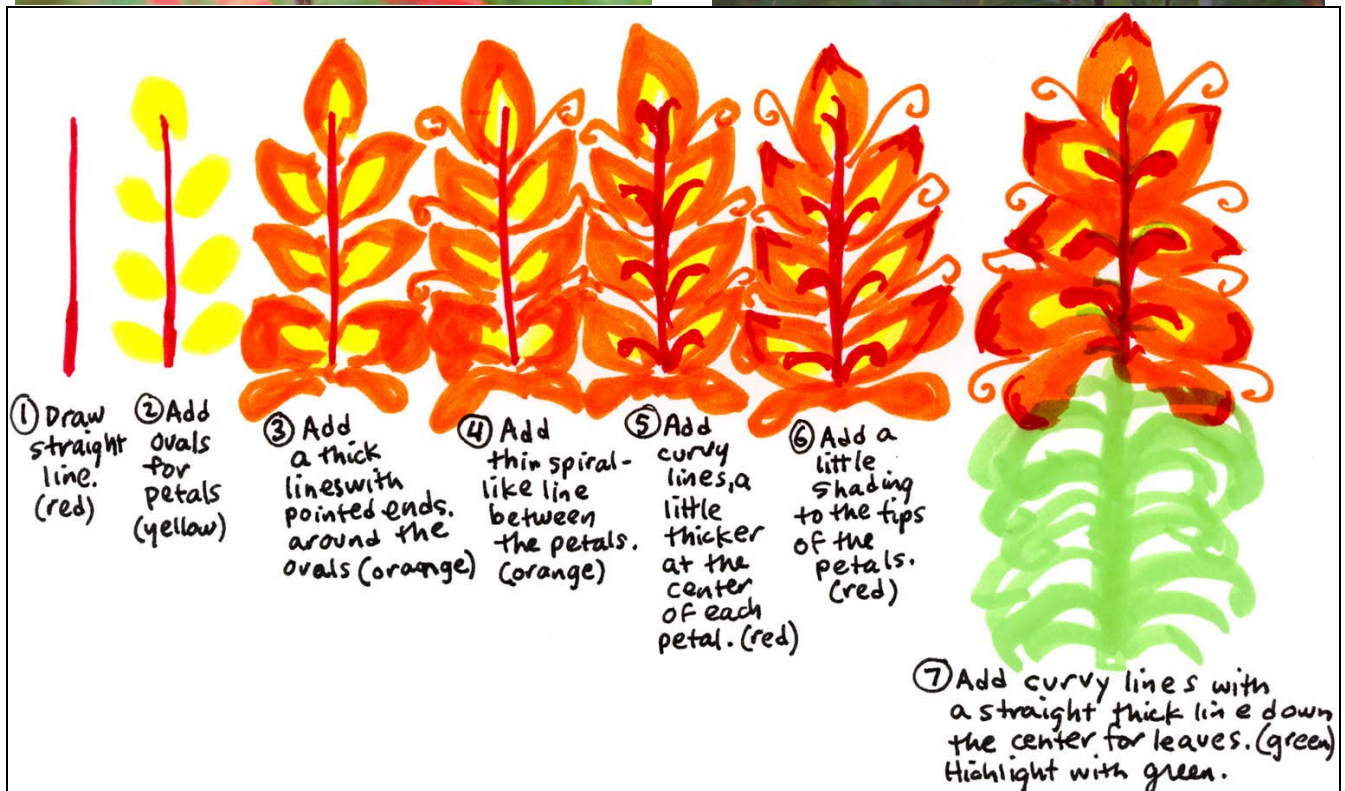
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## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Indian Paintbrushes

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best.

These are photos I took, here in Texas, of Indian Paintbrushes.



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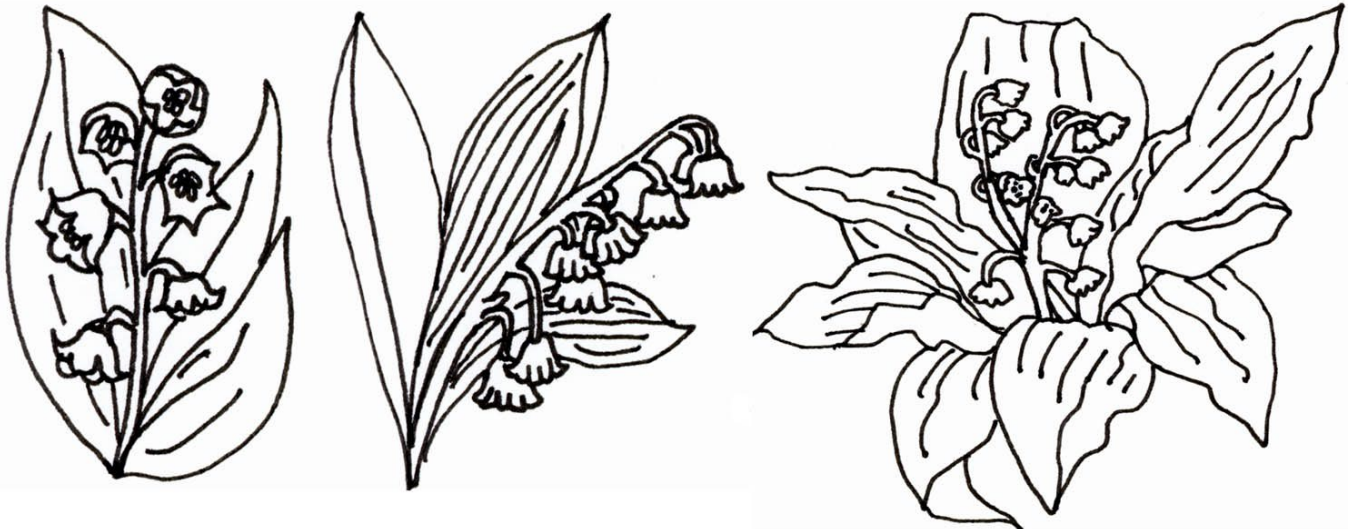
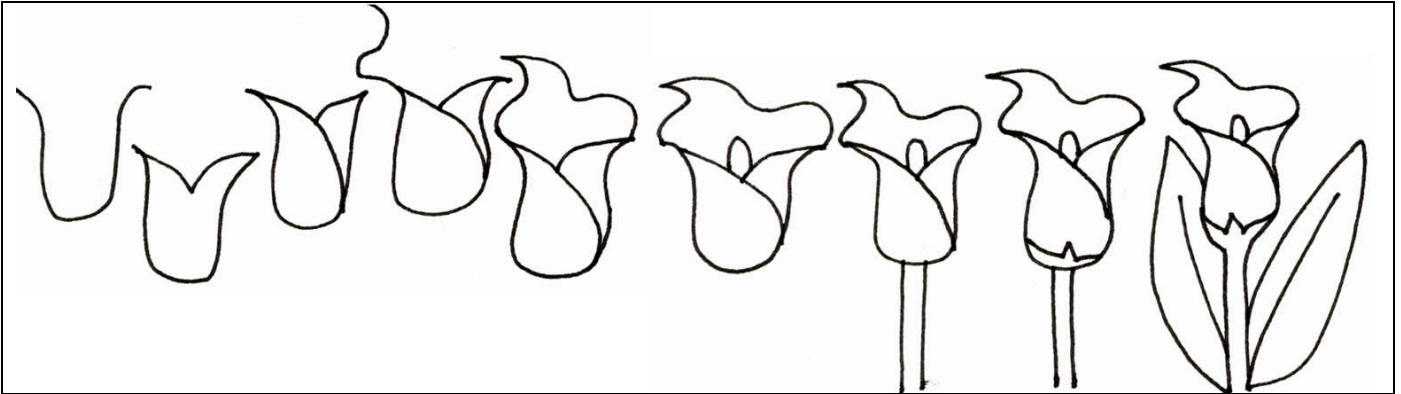
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## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Lillies



Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there.

One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn. The top half of the page is a Calla Lily. The bottom half of the page shows how to draw Lilly of the Valley.



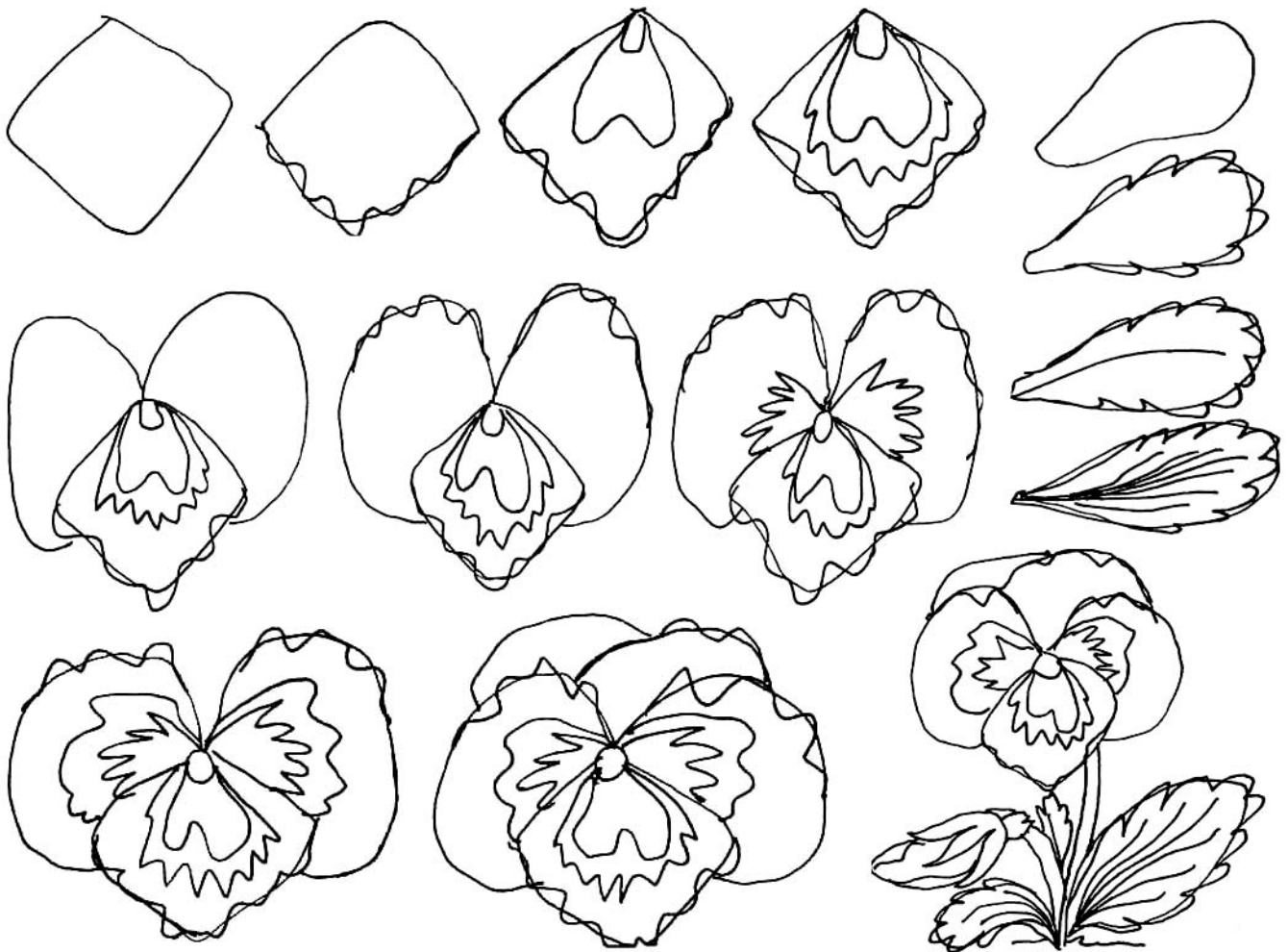
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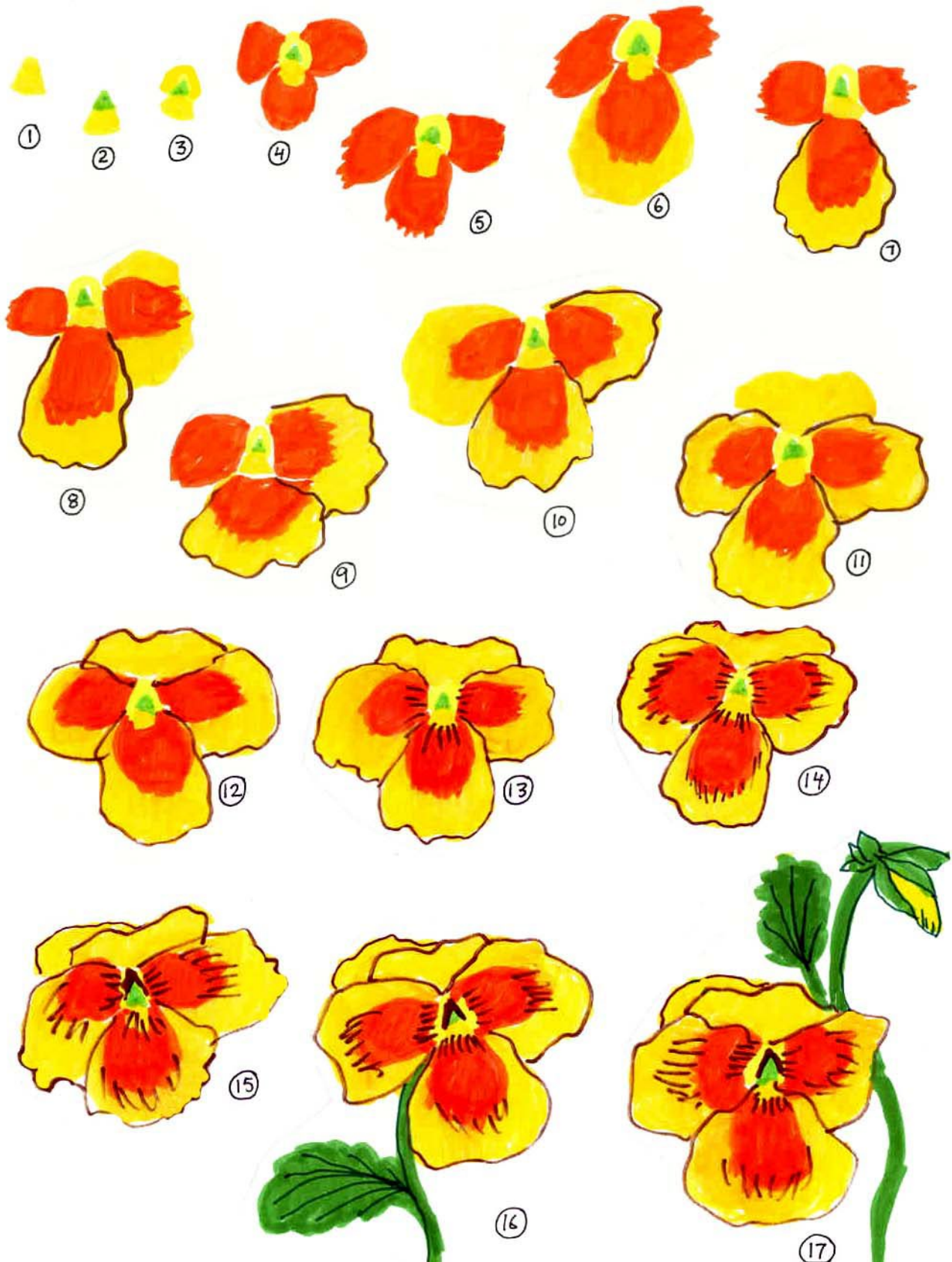
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# I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Pansies

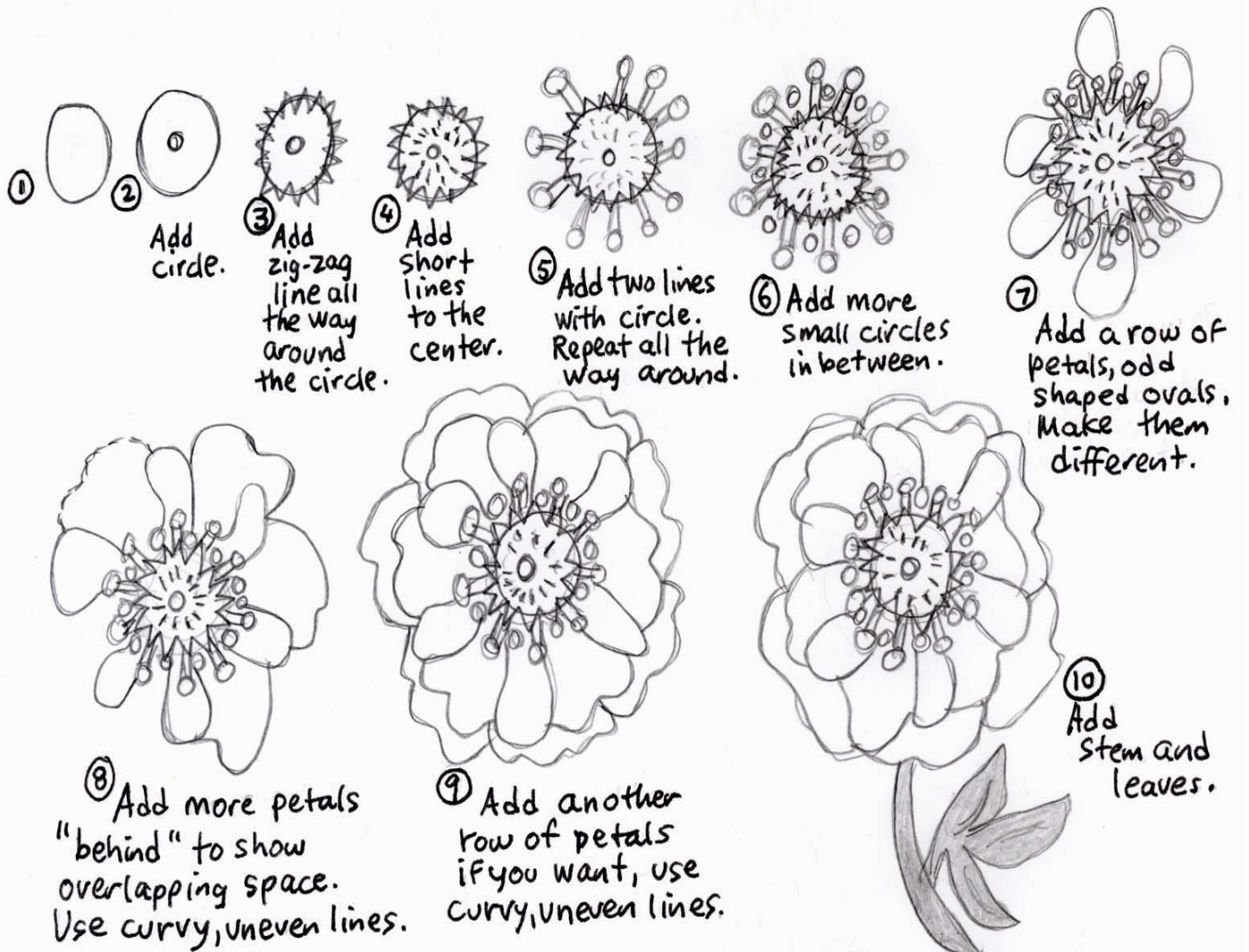


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# I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Pansies



## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Poppies



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## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Roses

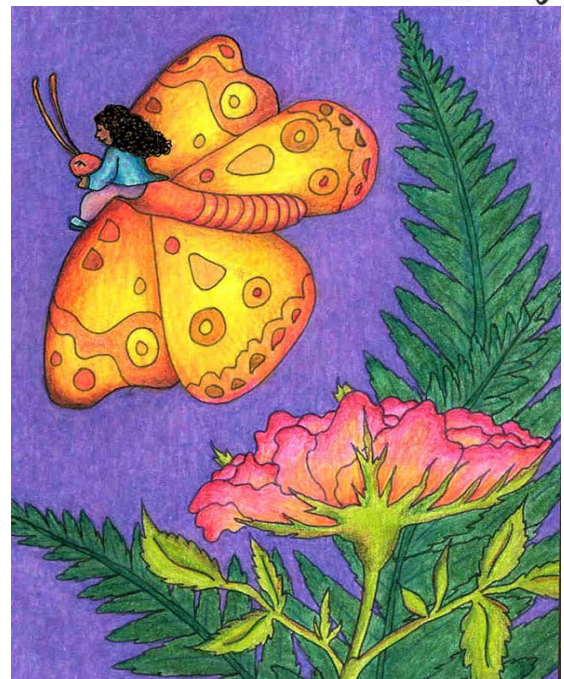


Read the above "How to", like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest colored shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.

Please remember there are as many ways to draw a rose as there are people in the world. This is just one way.

Remember to use what is learned in combination with other things you already know.

This picture, to the right, is a combination of a rose, ferns and a butterfly, with a little imagination added.



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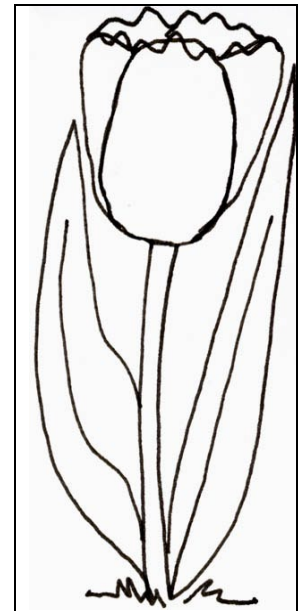
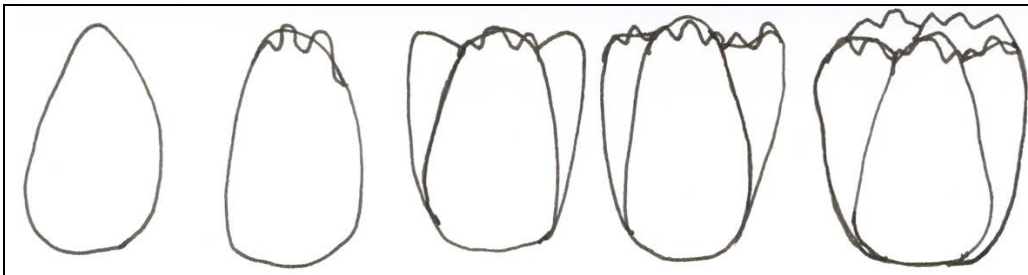
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# I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Tulips



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① Start with an (egg) oval shape.

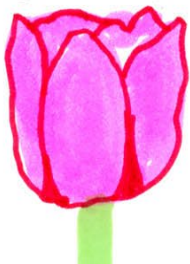
② Add curvy, bumpy lines to the top.

③ Add 2 upside-down triangle shapes. Make them uneven at the top.

④ Add some irregular, bumpy shapes on top to show the petals "behind".

⑤ Finally, add a long, straight, thick line for a stem. Add some leaves too.

SKETCH A TULIP... step by step with color.

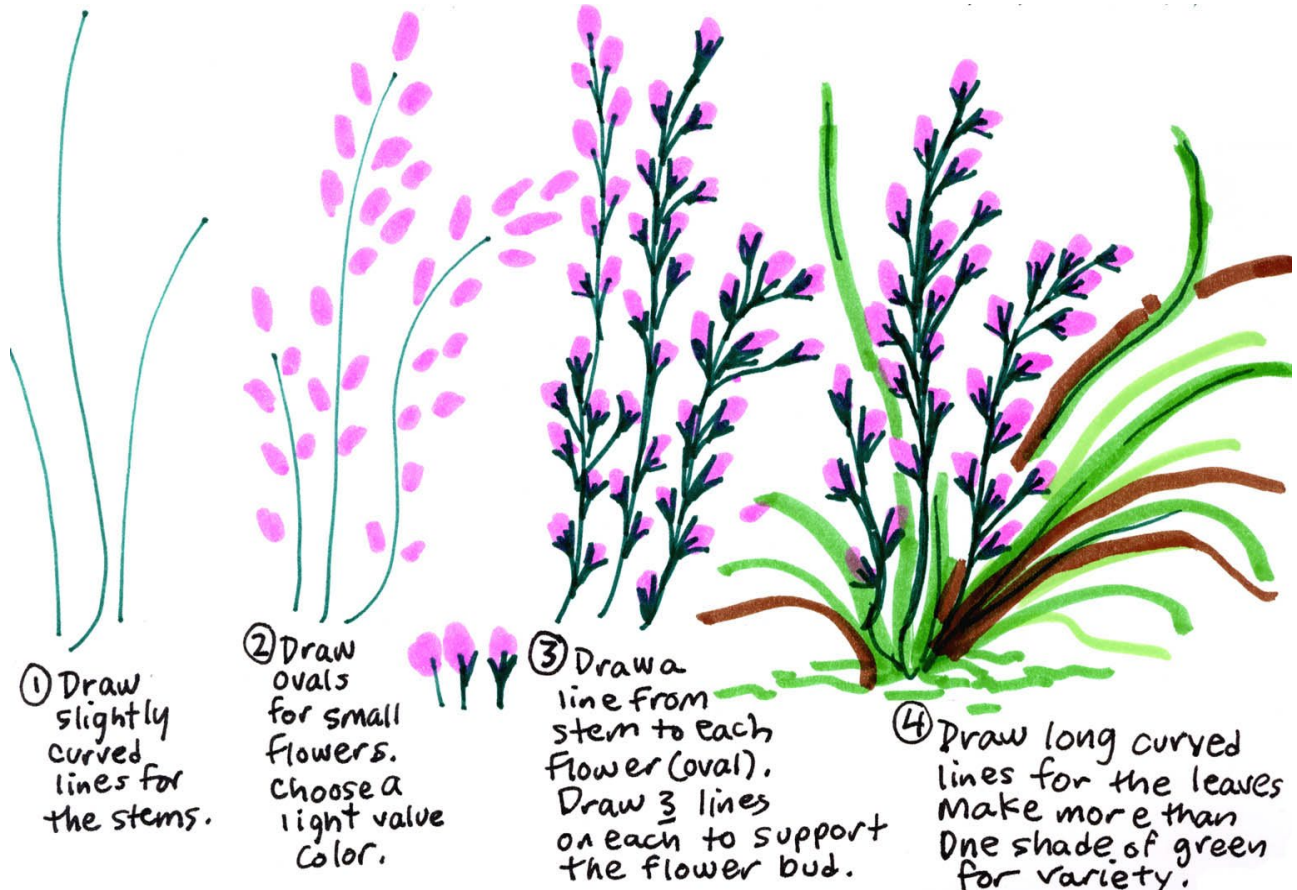


Try different colors with the tulips. Try different shapes.

## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Yucca

I almost always drew with a pencil until I took a Chinese watercolor class. In that class, I learned to draw the Yucca plant, to the right, with color. That's what gave me the idea to draw flower "step by steps" with colored markers, instead of pencil.

Follow the steps below, until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Why not try creating some of your own step by step lessons. Teaching is the best way to learn.



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## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Zinnias

There are many ways to draw the same object. Using these step by step exercises, you will learn to draw like me. I looked at real objects and I looked for shapes and lines to figure out the steps.

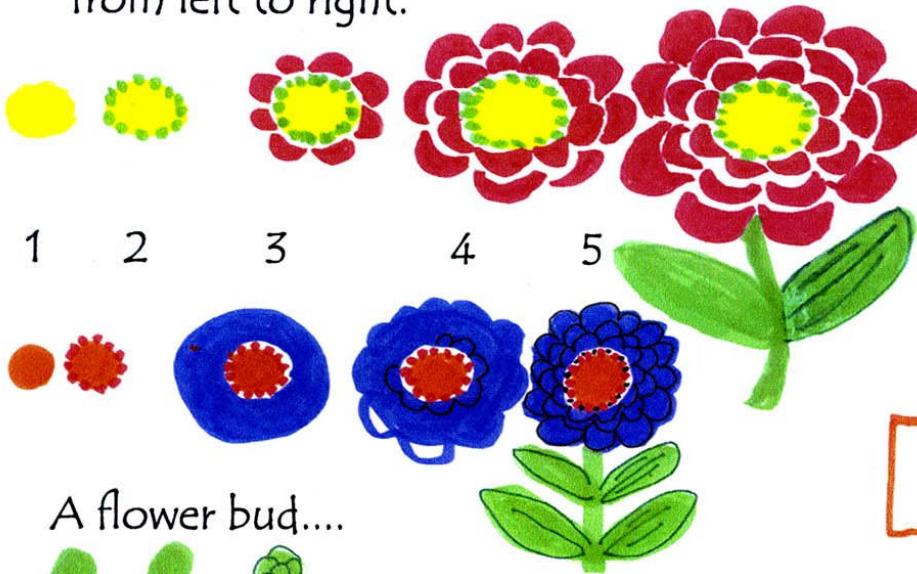
Each step must be compared with the one before to see what lines and/or shapes have been added. Then, add what you see.

Draw zinnias step by step.....



This is a young zinnia.

Read the steps like a book, from left to right.



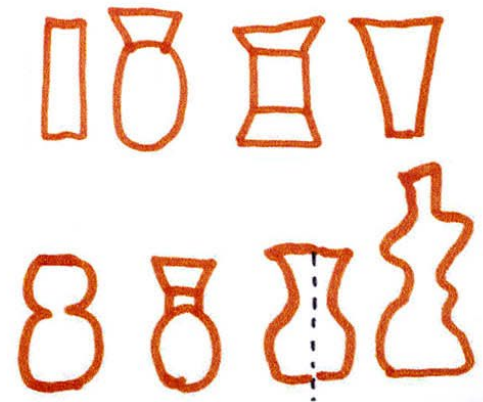
A flower bud....



Symmetrical leaves...



As for vases, there are infinite possibilities. Combine shapes and lines to create your own design.



## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Photographs

Sometimes, working from photographs is more practical. Insects may not hold still to draw.



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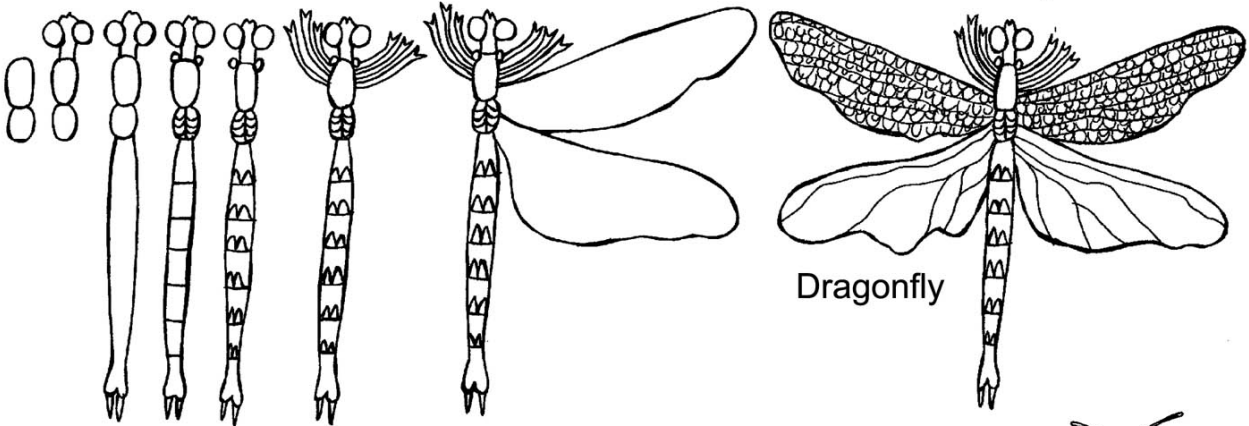
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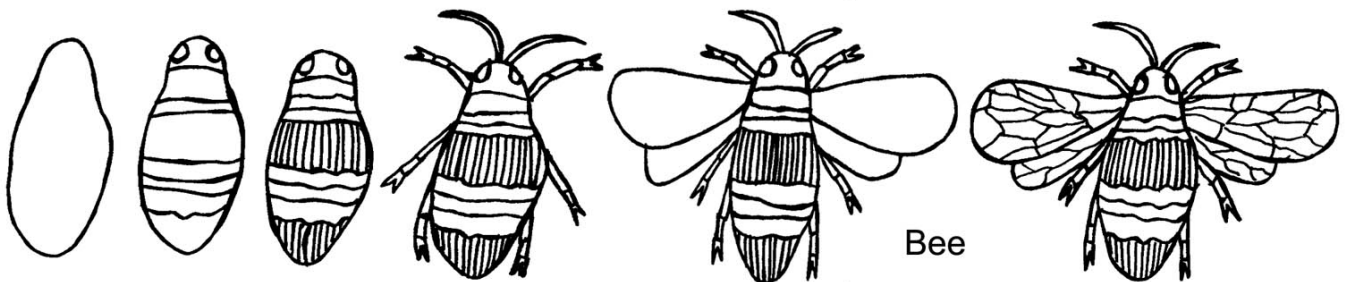


Dragonfly

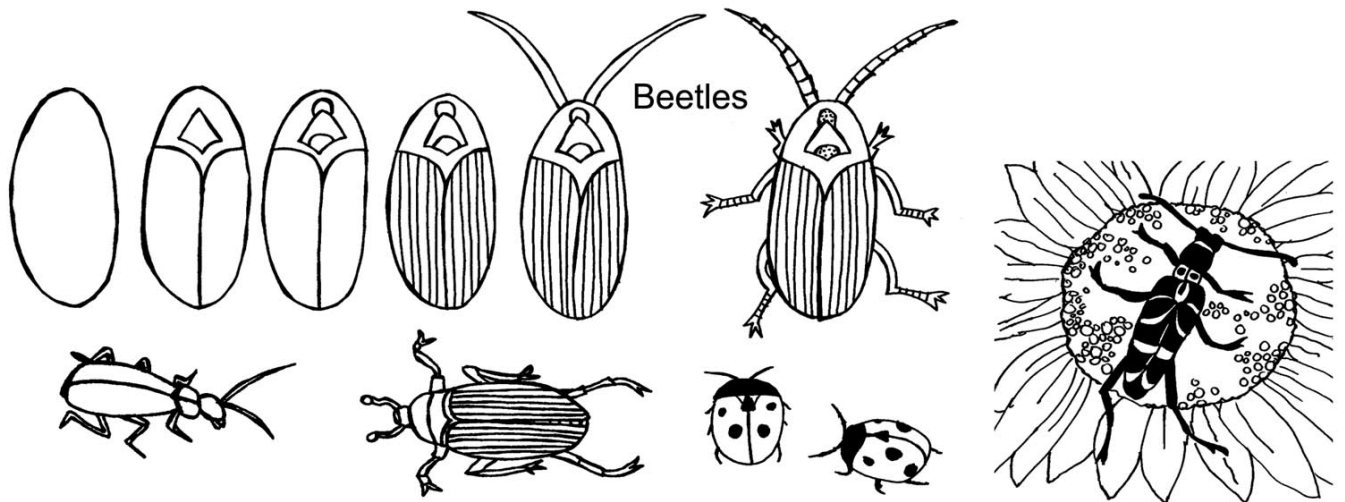


Bee

Moth



Bee



Beetles

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## **I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Photographs**

Sometimes, working from photographs is more practical. Butterflies constantly move about.



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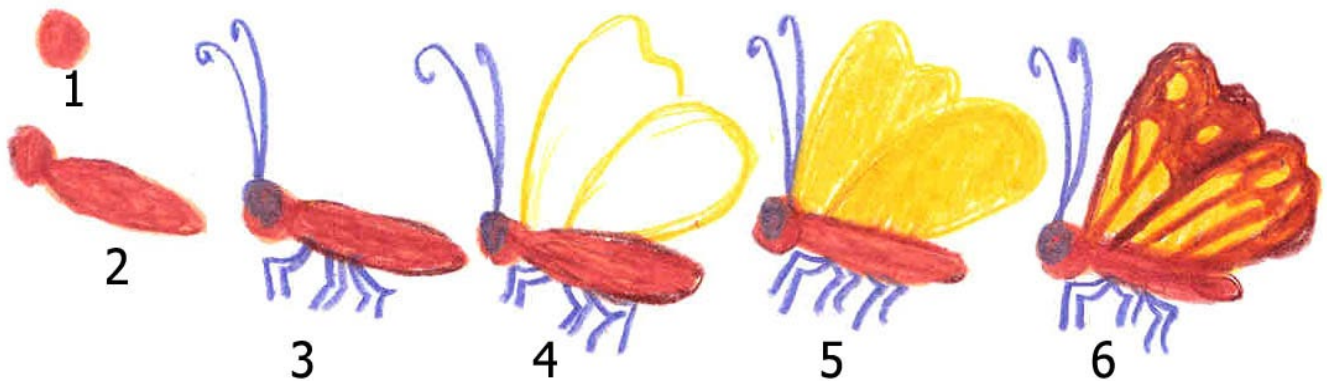
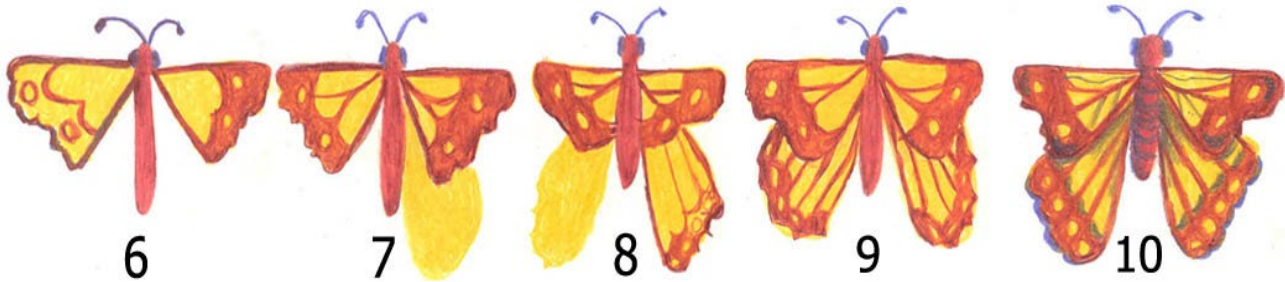
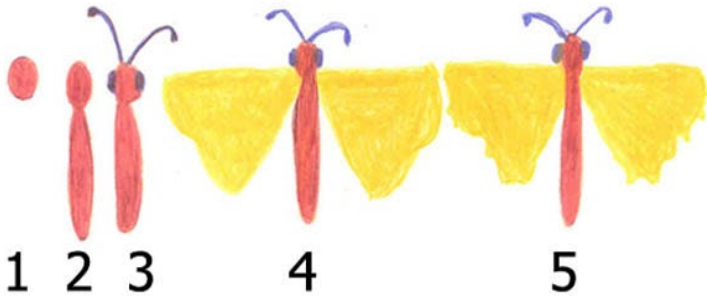
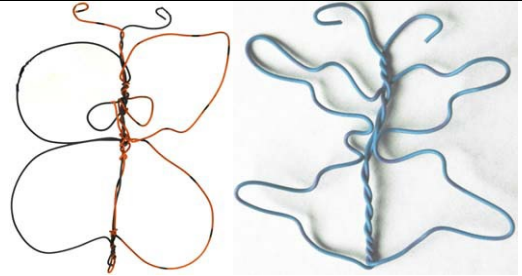
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## I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Butterflies

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.



After learning how to draw a simple butterfly, try making one in other materials. The two butterflies, on the right, are made out of coated wire.



I Can't Draw... Until I Practice... Flowers & Insects ! ♥ Copyright © All Rights reserved ♥ "Mo" M.C.Gillis

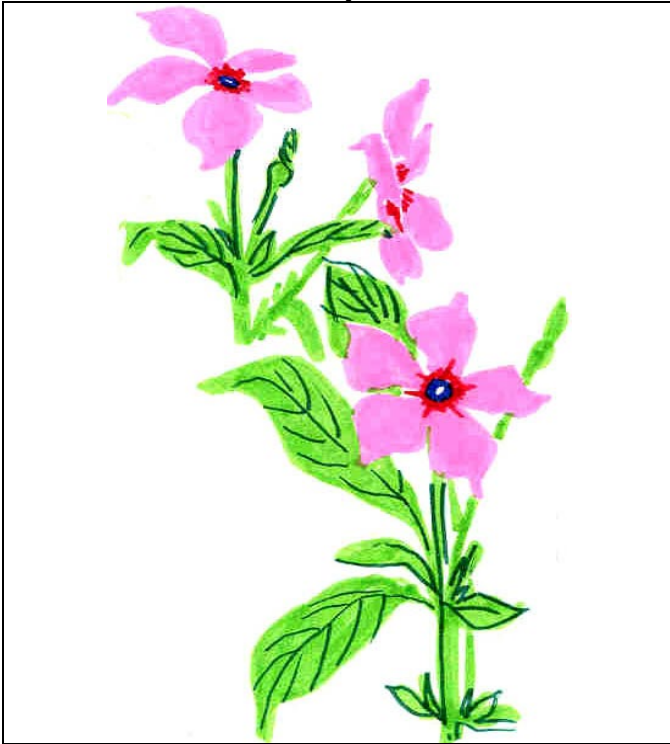
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## **I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! A Little More**

After following so many step-by-step instructions, can you make your own?  
How would you break down the two flower drawings below into steps?



Here are a couple more pictures I made using what I learned about drawing flowers. Happy drawing!



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