

Baby pig

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MATERIALS

PAINTS: Black, white, brick, and burnt sienna

BRUSHES: Medium and large flats, small round, liner, and script liner

OTHER: Chalk and pencil



1. Almost any smooth oval or round rock can be transformed into a baby pig. Good rock choices have potbellied, symmetrical shapes (Photo 1). For this project, I picked the loaf-shaped rock in the center.

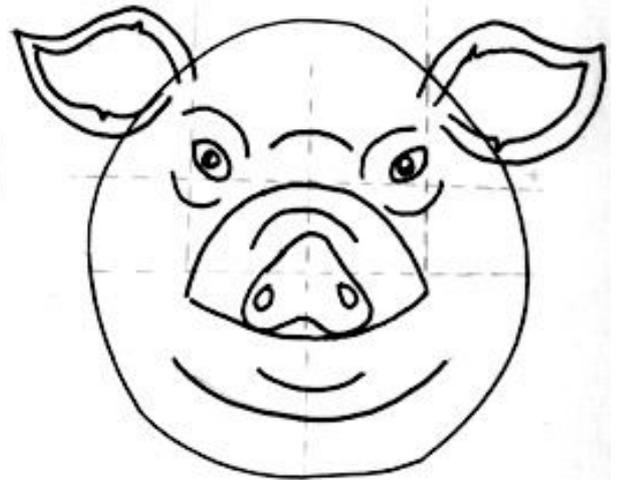
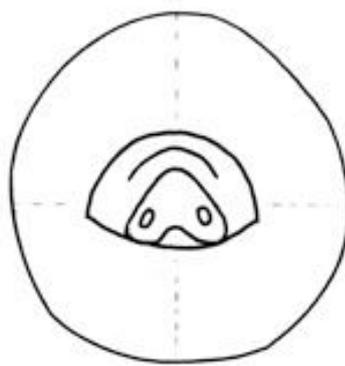
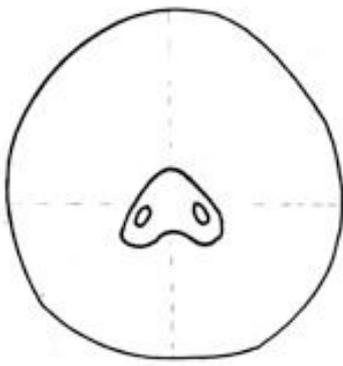
2. Mix equal parts of white paint and brick paint to make a medium shade of pink for the base coat. With a medium or large flat brush, cover the exposed areas of your rock (Photo 2). Allow to dry. Repeat if needed for even coverage.



Photo 1. Oval or round potbellied, symmetrical rocks are perfect shapes for pigs.

Photo 2. Paint the pink base coat.





3. Refer to Layouts A, B, and C, to sketch your design and plan the painting of your pig. Sketch the layout using a pencil, or a brush dipped in brown paint.

Start by giving your pig a large oval head that takes up most of the front rock area.

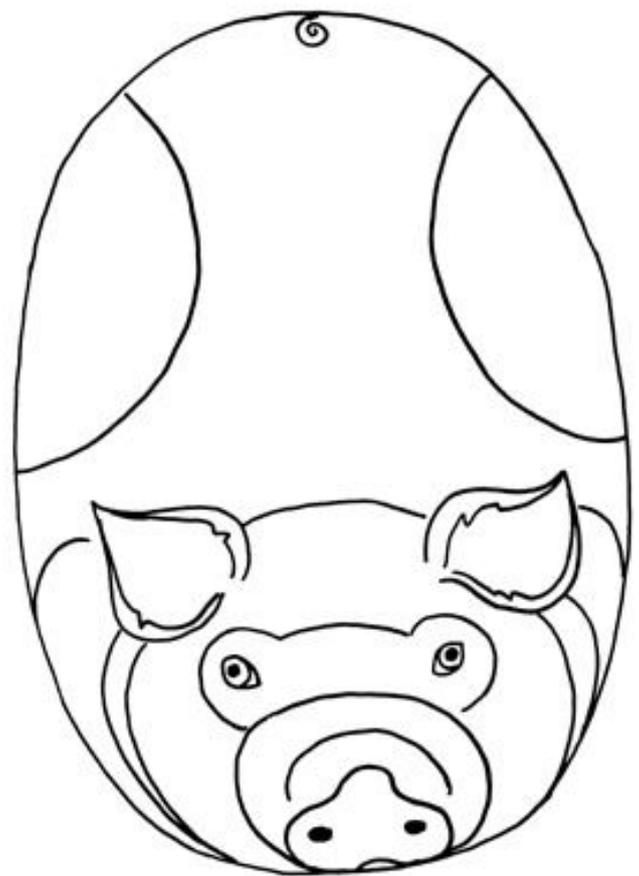
4. Divide the oval head in half both horizontally and vertically (Layout A). Place the pig's snout in the center. It should be shaped like an upside-down heart. Draw a crescent-shaped line above and around the snout to define the snout bridge. Add another upside-down crescent-shaped line that we will use later as the mouth.

5. Draw a horizontal line that runs across the top of the snout bridge. Add two vertical lines, one at each side of the snout bridge, to intersect the horizontal line.

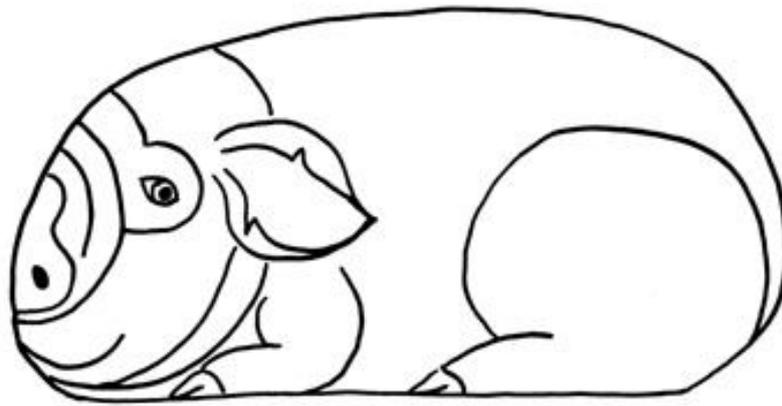
Sketch an eye at the corner of each intersection.

Add two large leaf-shaped ears above the eyes, curving up on the back.

Layout A. Steps in sketching the pig's face.



Layout B. Sketch of the pig's body, seen from above.



Layout C. Sketch of the pig's body, seen from the side.

6. Near the rear of the rock, on both sides, draw two round haunches and tuck the legs and hooves along the bottom edge (Layout B and C). Draw a front leg curving down below each ear.

7. A curly tail at the top rear of the rock will complete your basic layout.

8. If you used a pencil to sketch, dip your small round brush into burnt sienna paint and go over all the pencil lines to define the features (Photo 3).



Photo 3. Paint over your sketched pencil lines.

9. To paint shadows and create contours, add a small amount of brick paint to some of the base coat pink color to get a slightly darker pink shade.

Apply a first layer of shadows along the outside edges of the head and haunches. Add shadows along all the lines drawn and fill in the ears. (Photo 4).

10. Deepen the pink by adding a small amount of burnt sienna and shadow the inside of the ears. Use an even darker pink, almost brown, to add a shadow along the inner edges of both ears (Photo 5).



Photo 5. Darken the pink to shadow the ears.



Photo 4. Shade and shadow with a darker pink color.



Photo 6. Add more shadows to the body and face.

11. Add a second layer of shadows to the body and muzzle, darkening all the folds (Photo 6). Keep the paint thinned with water and apply softly, blending the darker color into the lighter one.

12. Fill in the eyes with white paint. Use a script liner brush to outline the eye circles with black. When dry, paint a brown circle using a small round brush and burnt sienna (Photo 7). Leave a tiny corner of white inside each eye.

13. To complete the eye, paint a round black pupil near the top of each eye. One white dot in each pupil will give your pig's eyes a lifelike gleam (Photo 8).



Photo 7. Paint eyes white, outline with black, and add a brown circle.



Photo 8. Add black pupils and highlight the eyes.

14. Fill in the snout with the brick color, gradually blending into the pink along the upper edge of the snout. With black paint and a small round brush, fill in the nostrils and outline the mouth (Photo 9).



Photo 9. Blend the snout and add nostrils.

15. Use a liner brush to add a white highlight below each nostril (Photo 10).

16. Mix white paint with a drop of brick paint to get a very pale pink. Apply the pale pink paint with a round brush to areas that would naturally catch the light: the top of the ears, above and below the eyes, the folds in the snout bridge, and the cheeks (Photo 11).

Also highlight the top curve of each haunch and the upper half of each leg (Photo 12).



Photo 10. Create a highlight below each nostril with white paint.



Photo 12. Highlight the curve of the haunch and upper half of each leg.



Photo 11. Highlight around ears, eyes, snout, and cheeks.

17. Paint the hooves black (Photo 13).



Photo 13. Paint the hooves black.

18. Dip the tip of your script liner brush into burnt sienna and paint a thin, curly, spiral tail. (Photo 14).

19. Here's how your pig should come out (Photo 15). As you can see, each pig takes on a different personality, depending on the rock that is used (Photo 16).

The pig project has been simplified for beginning painters. If you feel ready for a more advanced level, add more layers of delicate detailing, highlighting, and shadowing to achieve an even higher degree of realism. Here are some examples of pigs you can paint (Photo 17).



Photo 14. Paint a thin, curly, spiral tail in burnt sienna.



Photo 15. Your finished pig.



Photo 16. The same design painted on two different rocks.



Photo 17. A spotted piglet and a black one. Paint pigs with various ears positions and colors.

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