Sunflowers are symbols of happiness and vitality. They have graced gardens for over 1,000 years, and images of sunflowers are often found in ancient art, especially among Native American peoples.

Would you like to bring a little of the sunflower’s joy to your sketch book? This easy to follow, step-by-step drawing guide will show you how.

You will not need any special tools, only a piece of paper and something to draw with, such as a pen, pencil, crayons, or markers.

As you follow the illustrations in the step-by-step guide, you will notice that previous steps appear in black, while new additions to your drawing are highlighted in blue. Sketch lightly at first, as you will be erasing some of your original lines, called guide lines, as you do along. Add each of the new marks to your drawing, and soon you will have a complete sunflower.

Once you have mastered this drawing tutorial, for what will you use your sunflower drawing skills? Bring your notebook or journal to life with this flower’s sunny disposition. Decorate a wall with a garden full of sunflowers. Or simply brighten someone’s day by adding this sketch to a cheerful note.

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Step-by-step Instructions for Drawing a Sunflower

1. Begin by drawing a scalloped circle. You may want to draw a circle first as a guide, then erase the circle after adding the scallops.

2. Draw another, larger, scalloped circle around the first.

3. Draw five petals, spaced evenly around the scalloped circle. Each petal will consist of two curved lines, extending from the scalloped circle at the flower’s center and coming to a point.

4. Add five more petals between the first. These will extend from the sides of the first petals.

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Add more petals to the left side of your drawing. These four petals will be drawn between the existing petals. The lines you use for these petals will be shorter than the others, the points of all petals ending at the same distance from the flower center.

Continue adding petals to the other side of the flower.

Next, draw the stem. Extend two long, parallel, slightly curved lines down from the flower. Connect the two stem lines at the bottom using a short, curved line.

Draw a long, curved line extending from the right side of the stem. This is the beginning of a leaf.
Extend a long, curved line from the left side of the stem, slightly higher than the one on the right.

To form the stem of each leaf, extend a line from the flower stem, just below each leaf line, to intersect the middle of each leaf line in a point.

Next, draw your leaf. Draw a curved line from the top middle of the leaf stem to meet the end of the leaf line in a point. Extend an S-curved line from the bottom of the leaf stem, also meeting the other leaf lines in a point.

Erase the lines from the interior of your leaf.
Draw the leaf vein by placing one curved line through the middle of the leaf, extending from the leaf stem to the tip. Draw secondary veins from the first using three short, slightly curved lines.

You will now repeat this process for the second leaf. Use two curved lines to form the exterior of the leaf.

Erase the lines from the leaf’s interior.

Draw veins using one long, curved line and three short lines.
Add detail to the flower’s center. Use short, curved lines and short "M" shaped lines to give the interior of the flower a bumpy texture.

Add detail to the petals. Starting with the first five petals you drew, extend a nearly straight line down the center of each, from the flower center to the petal tip.

Repeat this process on all the other petals.

Color your flower. Sunflower petals usually display colors ranging from yellow to orange and the center may be brown or orange.