

PANGOLIN PORTRAIT

Pangolins are the only mammals known to have plate-like scales. When threatened, they roll up into a ball, with their scales acting like a suit of armour! Sadly, all eight species of pangolin (four in Africa and four in Asia) are under threat due to hunting for the illegal wildlife trade.

DRAWING A PANGOLIN

Follow our step-by-step instructions to create your very own picture-perfect pangolin.

1.



In pencil, start by drawing a large circle just above the centre of the page. Add a small circle to the left and slightly lower down, then add gently pointed semi-circles to the left of each shape – leaving space underneath for the tail.

2.



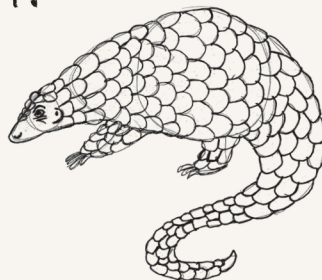
Join the smaller shape to the large shape with two lines (the neck), and add basic lines for the front and back legs. Finally add the pangolin's large tail underneath the body, like a back-to-front S.

3.



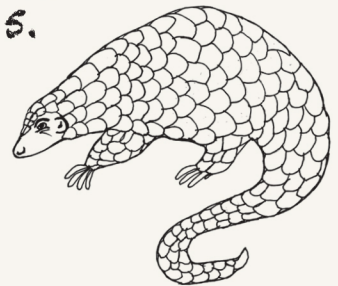
Add shape to the legs and draw in the claws, which are long with sharp points. Now draw the eye, with an arched eyebrow and two lines below, plus the ear and nostril. Start adding a few scales to the top of the head until you are just about level with the ear.

4.



Draw the rest of the scales. Keep them simple – semi-circular shapes that get bigger towards the middle, and smaller again towards the tail. They look a bit like fish scales. Don't forget to add scales to the legs! Don't worry if they are not perfect – each scale can be slightly different.

5.



The finishing touches! Start by drawing over each line with a fine black felt tip or biro. Next, rub out your pencil marks – it should look a bit neater now. Finally use your black pen to go around the outline of the pangolin to create a smooth finish.