Art and Design

Portraits

Drawing Self-Portraits
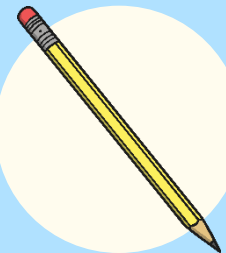
What is a Portrait?

A portrait is a picture of a one person or a small group of people.

People can make portraits in lots of ways, using different materials, techniques, equipment, and colours.

Why do Artists Paint Portraits?

Sometimes artists are asked to create a portrait for somebody. They may get paid to do so.

Sometimes artists create portraits of somebody they admire or love.

Portrait of King Henry VIII (1536) by Holbein

Portrait of an Infant (1881) by Renoir

In the past, portraits were mostly used to memorialize rich and powerful people like kings and queens. This meant the world would remember them after they died.

An artist often tries to show the person's character so a portrait might show how important someone is, or how kind, or strong.

Mona Lisa (1503-1517)
by Leonardo da Vinci

Portrait of Madame Matisse (Green Stripe) (1905)
by Henri Matisse

Adele Bloch-Bauer 1 (1907)
by Gustav Klimt

Some Portraits by Famous Artists
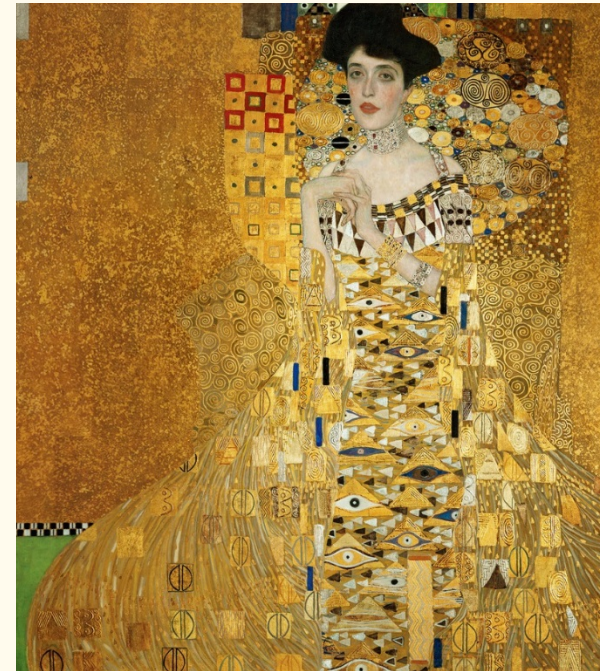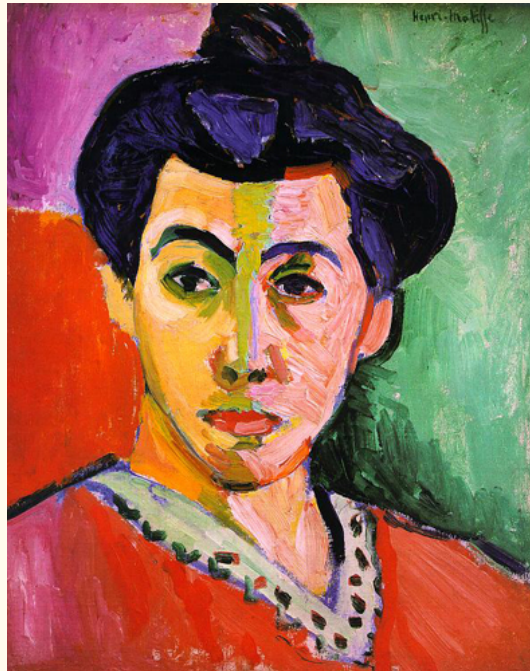
How are they similar?

How are they different?

Which is your favourite? Why?
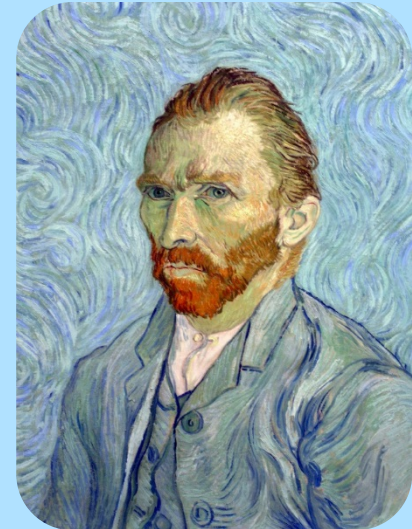
What is a Self-Portrait?

A self-portrait is when an artist makes a picture of himself or herself.
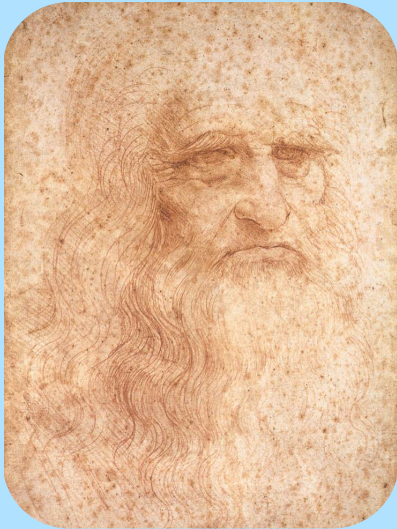
Leonardo da Vinci used chalk on paper.

Andy Warhol used photography and screen printing.

Vincent Van Gogh used paint and swirling brush strokes.

What do You See?

To create a self portrait you need to look at your face and think about what you see.

Practise looking at your partner.
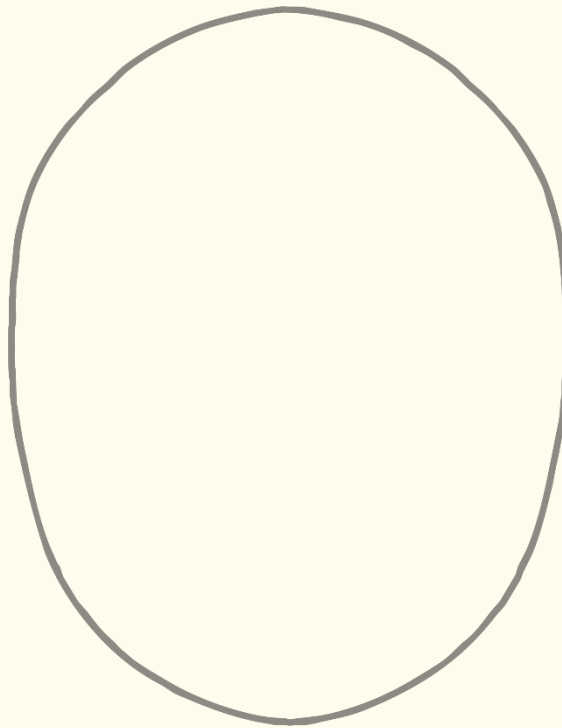
What colour are their eyes?

What colour is their hair?

How high up are their eyes?

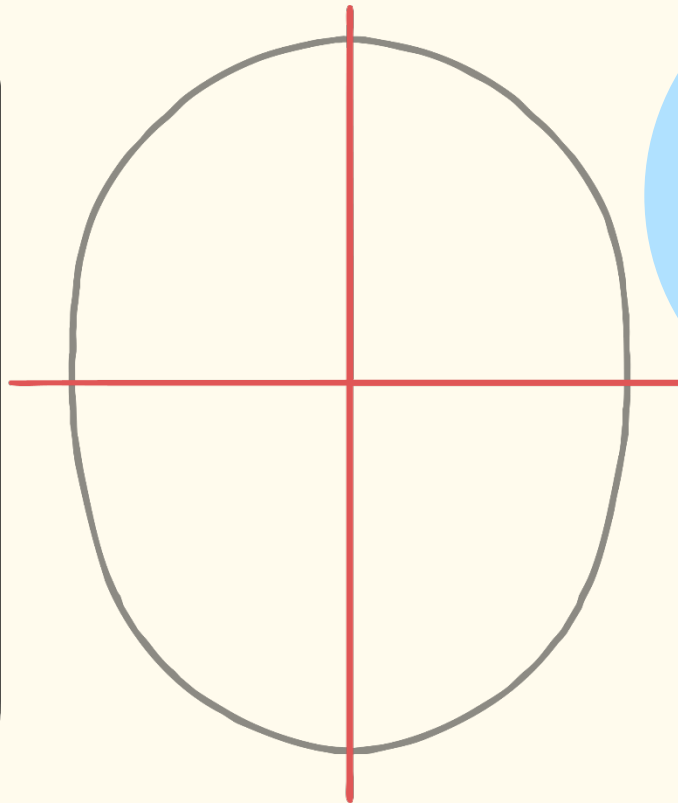# How to Draw a Self-Portrait Step 1

Draw a faint oval. You will go back over this later after you have drawn the hair.

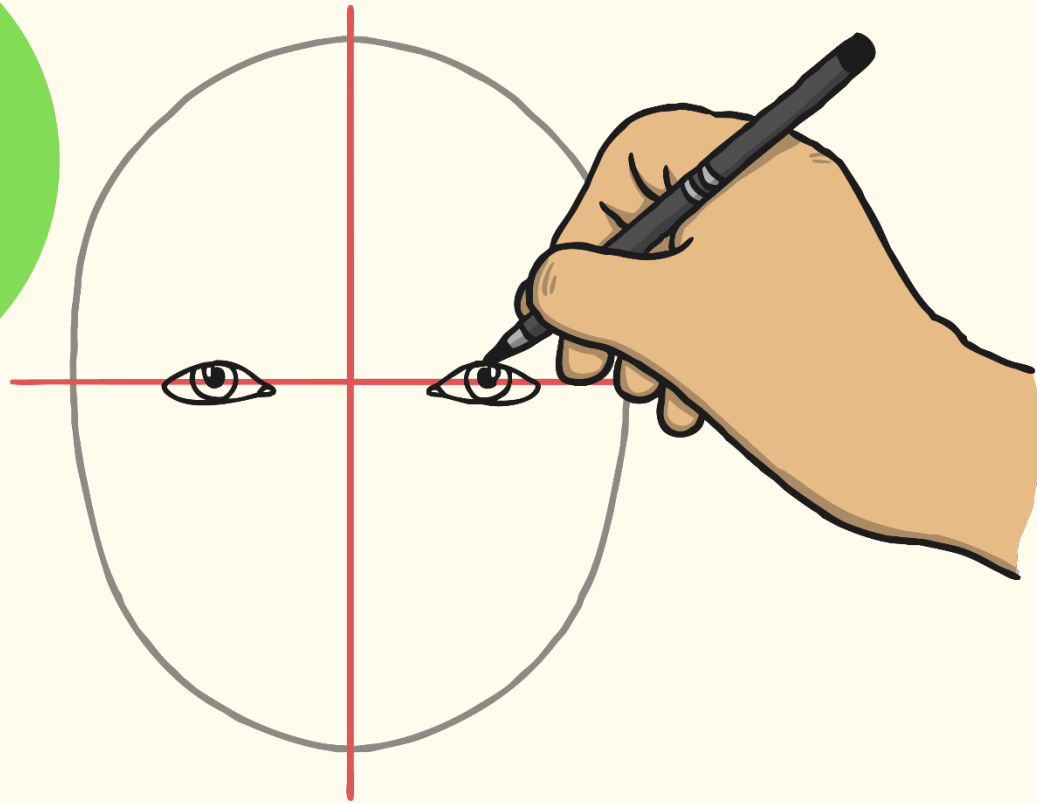# How to Draw a Self-Portrait Step 2

Make some very faint guide lines with a pencil and ruler.

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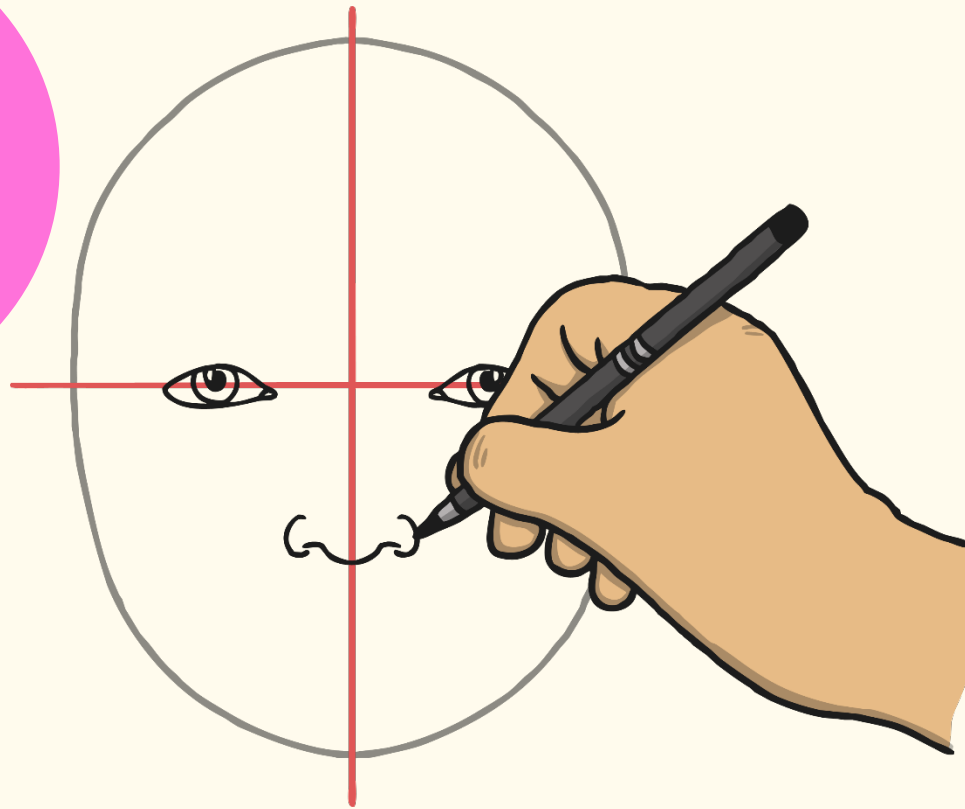# How to Draw a Self-Portrait Step 3

Draw the eyes.

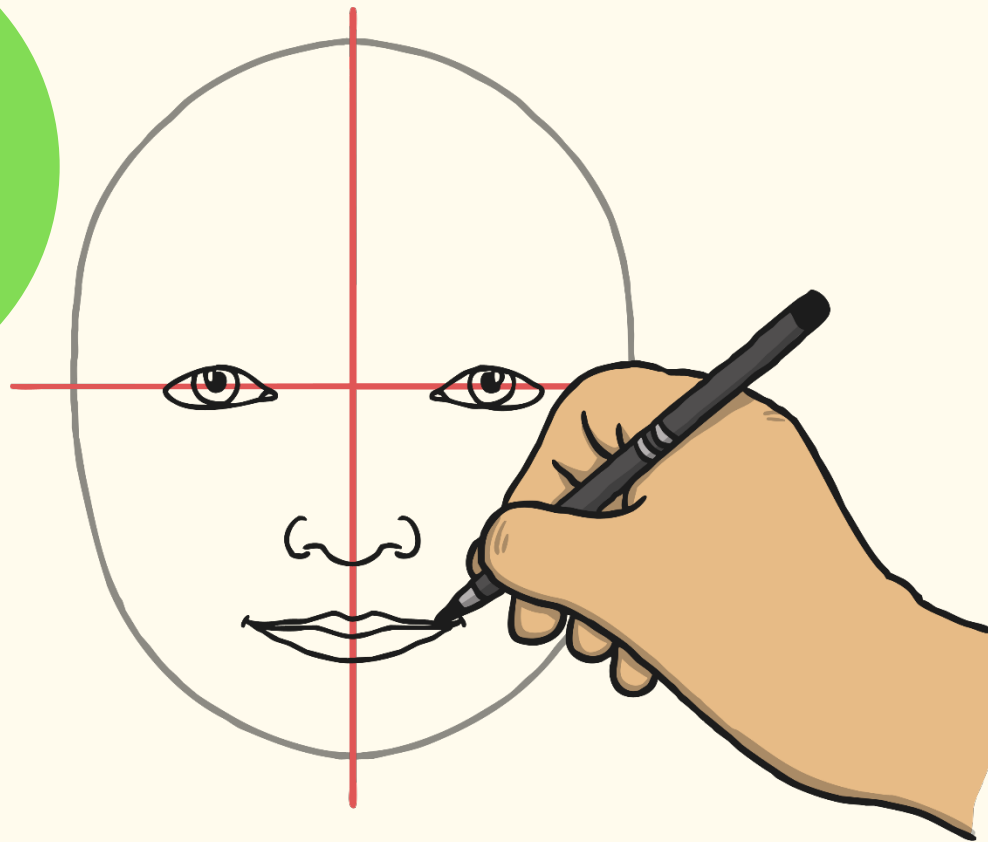# How to Draw a Self-Portrait Step 4

Draw the nose.
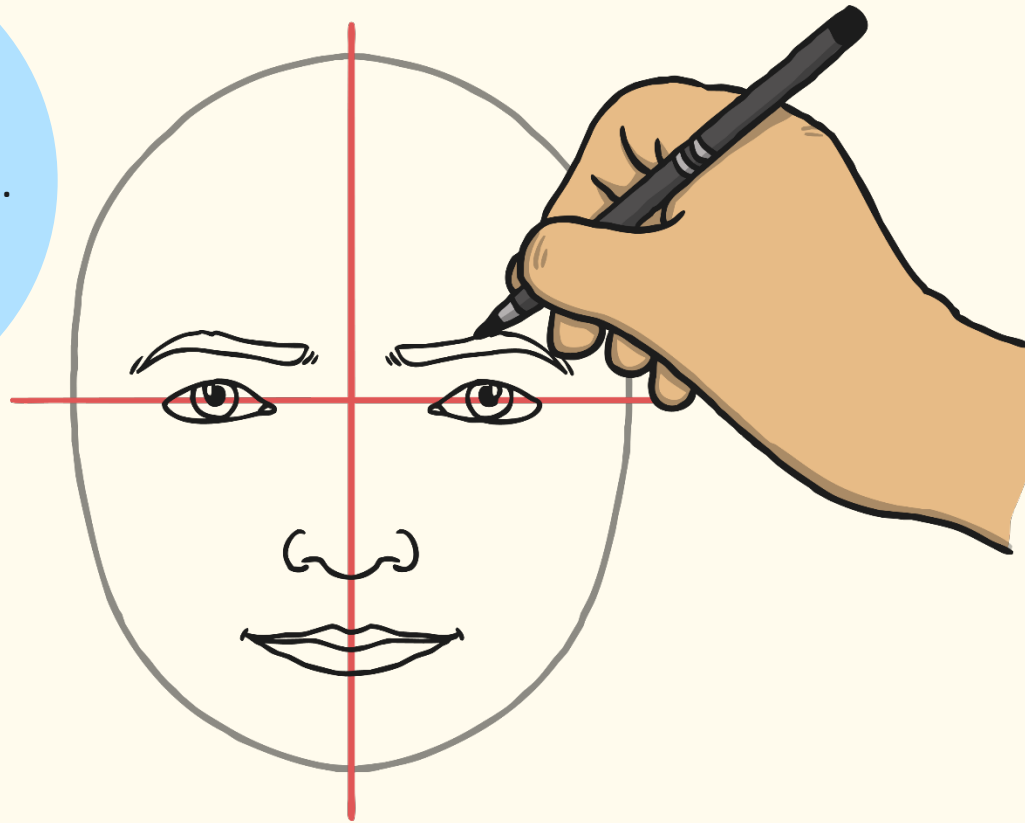
How to Draw a Self-Portrait Step 5

Draw the mouth.
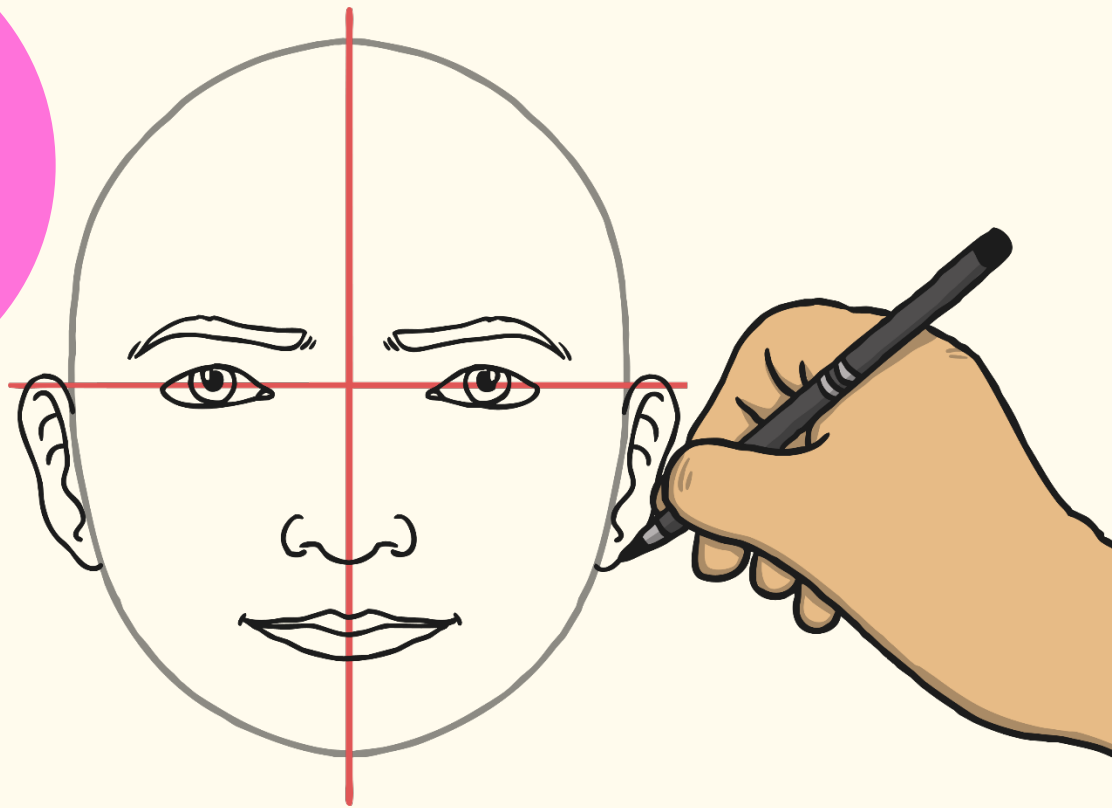
How to Draw a Self-Portrait Step 6

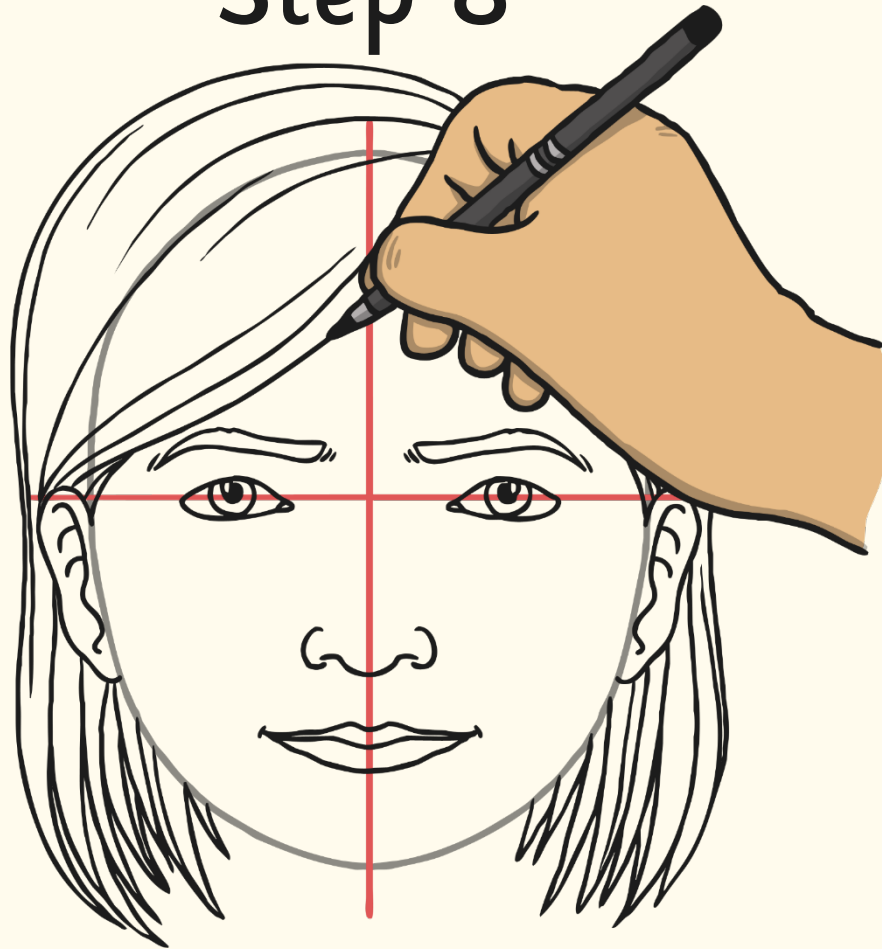Draw the eyebrows.

How to Draw a Self-Portrait Step 7

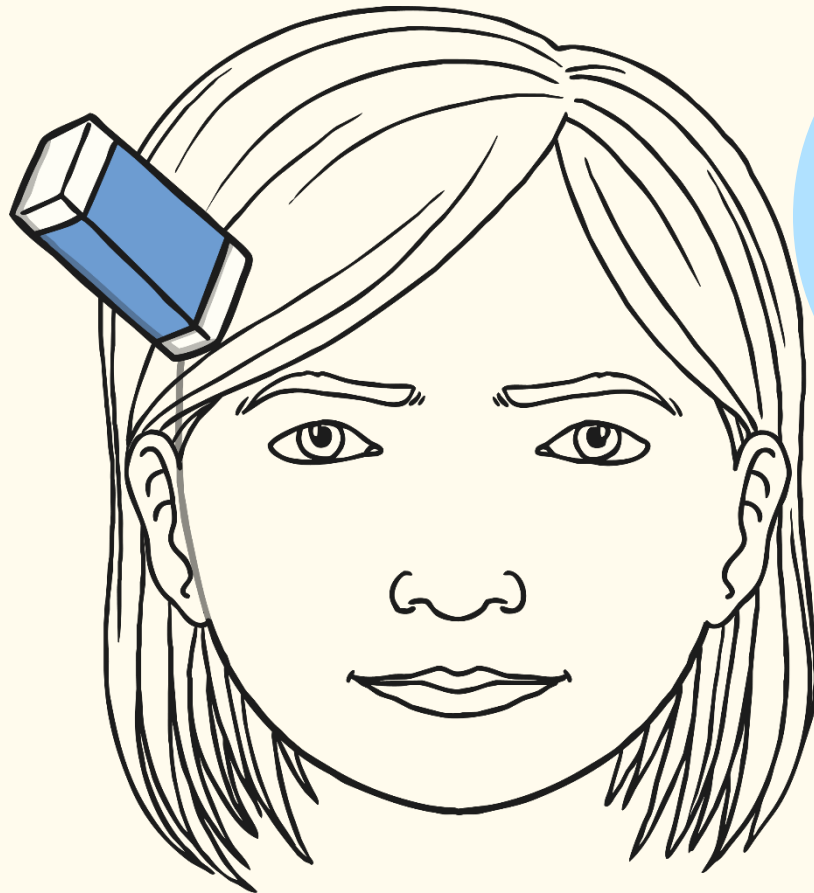Draw the ears.

How to Draw a Self-Portrait
Step 8

Draw the hair.

How to Draw a Self-Portrait
Step 9

Go over the lines of the oval that isn't covered by hair. Erase the faint guide lines and the oval lines that are covered by hair.

How to Draw a Self-Portrait Step 10

Colour in the face. Don't forget to add the pupils in the eyes and any freckles or other details on the face.