DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Activity Workbook

How to Draw a Pangolin



Image credit: Gareth Thomas

The Art of Survival: FIGHT • PROTECT • ENGAGE

What is a pangolin?

Pangolins are one of the most trafficked mammals in world. With eight species across Africa and Asia, pangolins are iconic armoured mammals.



Image credit: Will Riley

Named after the Malayan word for roller, “penggulung”— pangolins will roll into scaled balls as their primary form of defence against predators.



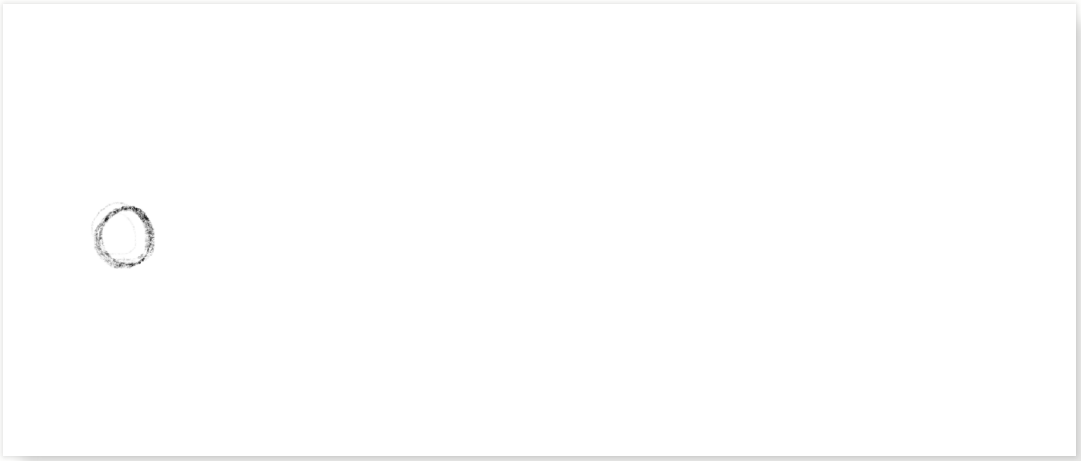
Image credit: Angus Hart

Equipment

- Pencil
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Paper
- Coloured pencils / pens / watercolours etc.

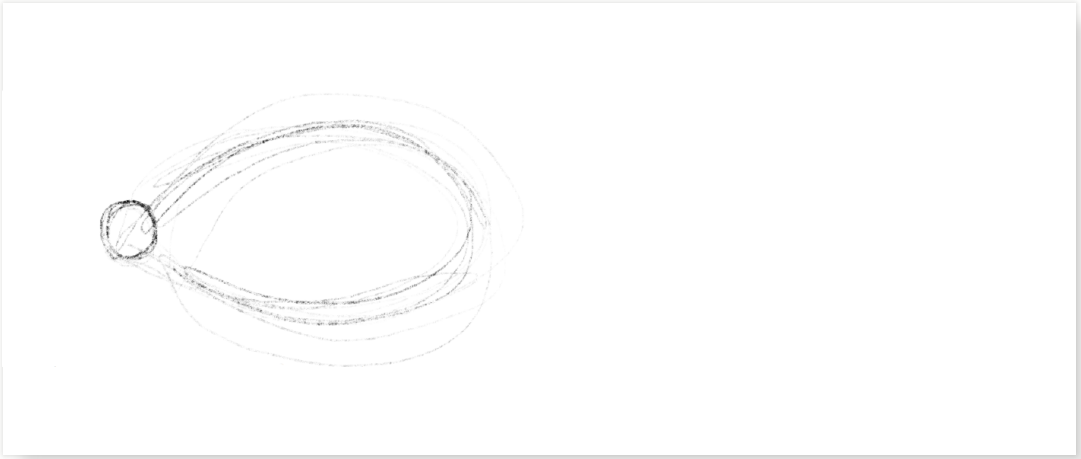
Method

1 Starting to one side of a sheet of paper, draw a small circle for the head.

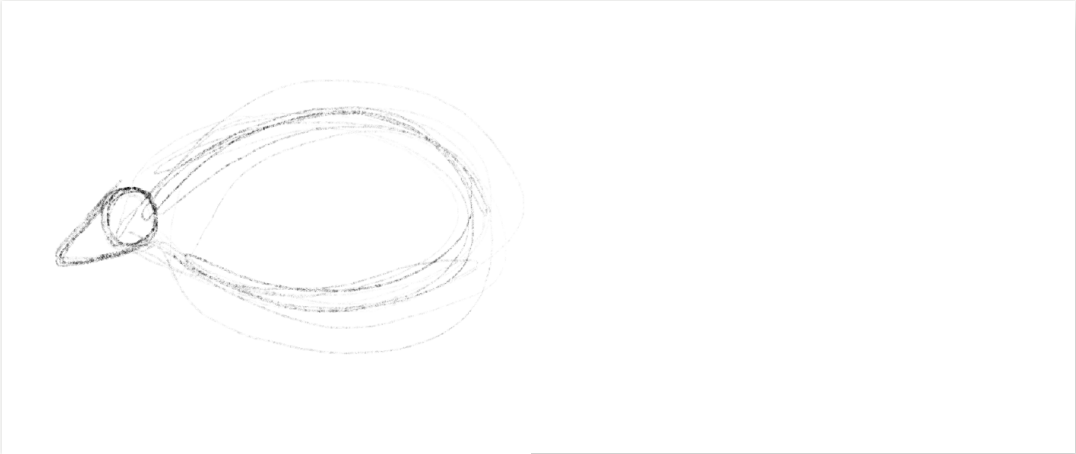


Pangolin drawings: Alicia Hayden

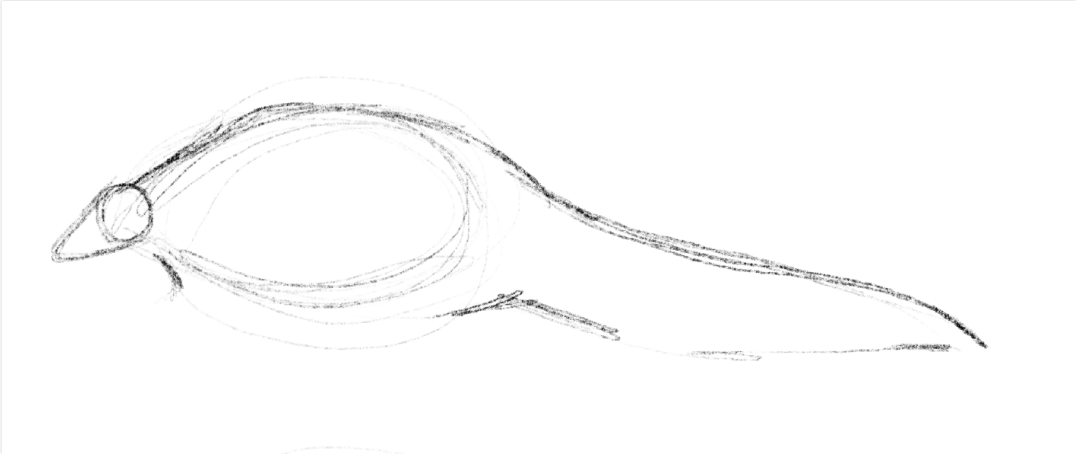
2 Add an almond shape to the left of the circle, with the point against the circle.



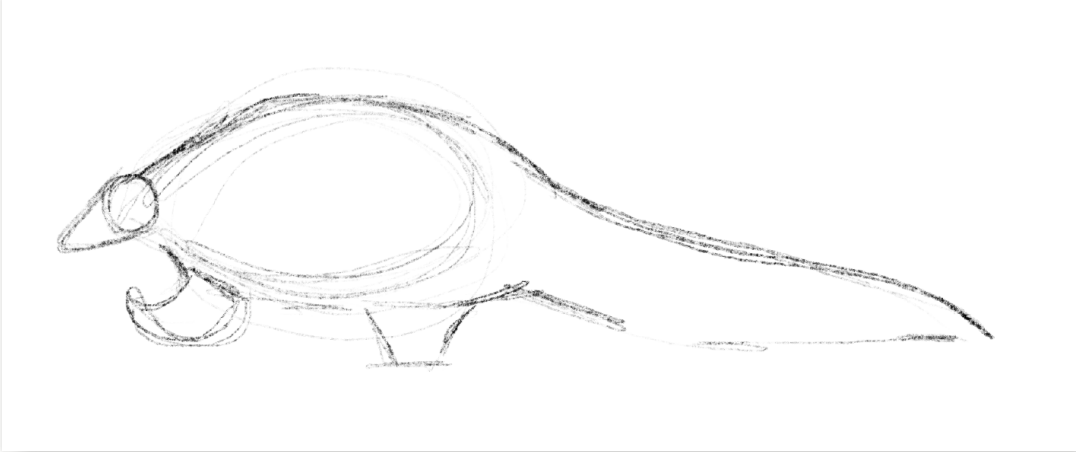
3 Draw a rounded cone/triangle shape from the small circle - this is the head and nose.



4 Bring the almond shape out into a tail, adding a few curves.

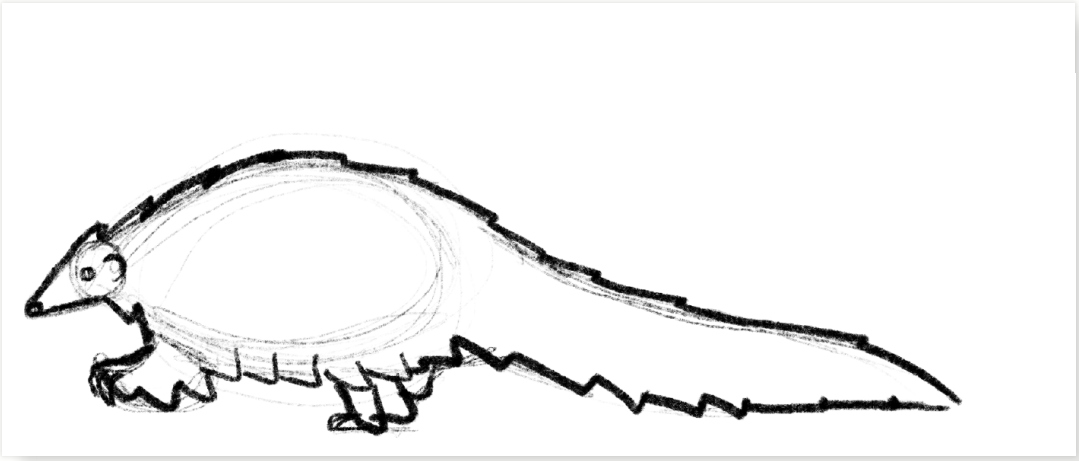


5 Mark on the legs: the back leg is an oblong and the front leg is a banana shape.



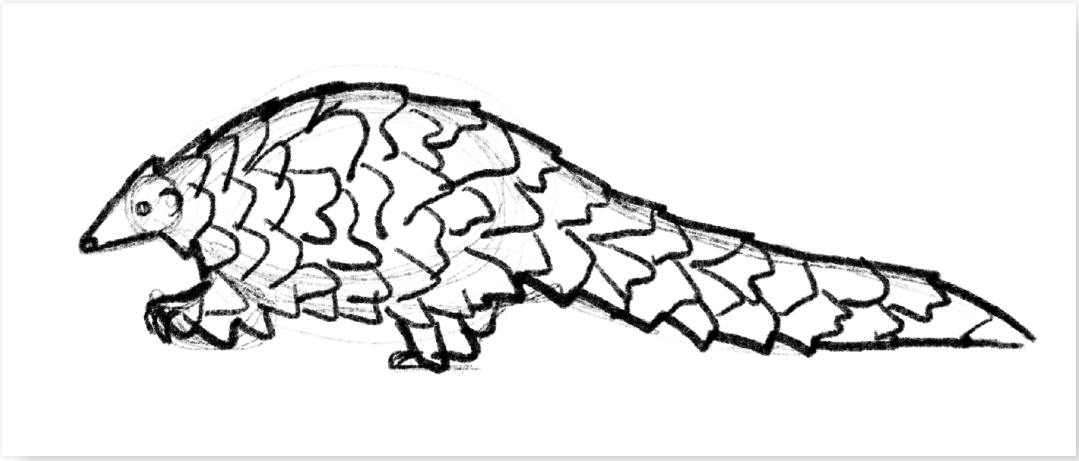
6

Outline the pangolin. Use jagged/ spiked lines to indicate the scales. Mark on the eye and nose with small circles and the ear with a c-shape.



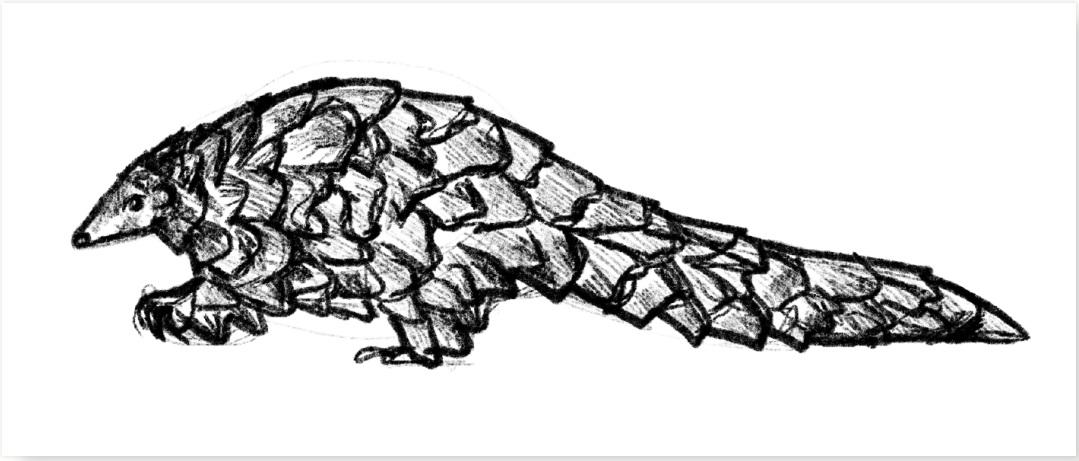
7

Layer on the scales - they cover the pangolin, and are v, n, or slightly wiggled m shapes.



8

Optional: Add some shading. Lines show the scale ridges and give texture.



9

Add some colour.

Consider what colours you see your pangolin being - it can either be earthy colours (like a real pangolin) or funky pop colours. You can be as imaginative as you like.







The Art of Survival: FIGHT • PROTECT • ENGAGE

DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION 2025

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Fonthill FOUNDATION

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DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

This project was developed and led by David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF), who collated and designed the resources in close collaboration with our field partners to ensure the activity books and teacher's guidance were rooted in real-life conservation challenges. Delivered with the support of the Coastal Schools Partnership and generously funded by the Garfield Weston and Fonthill Foundations, the project brings authentic conservation stories into the classroom in an engaging and accessible way.

7 Kings Road, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8JU | Telephone: 01483 272323 | davidshepherd.org | Registered charity no: 1106893