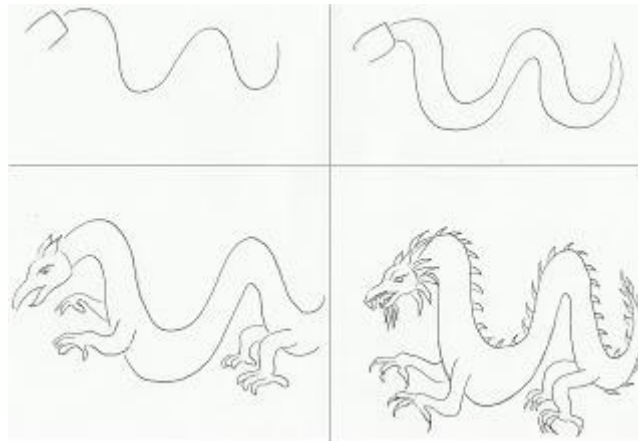


How to Draw Chinese Dragon

Start with an open box-like shape in the upper corner of the paper. Add a rolling line, sort of like a hill or roller coaster-not too close together, not zig-zag, but somewhat flowing. Only 2 or 3 hills, please.

Remind them to sketch lightly so they can erase some of the lines later!

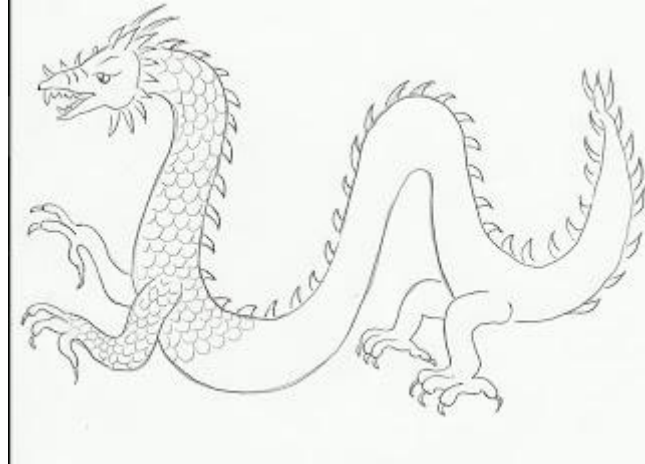


Next, draw a line just underneath the first. If the lines are too close together, they won't be able to add the scales. If they are too far apart, the spikes will bump into the next section. Tell them that until they get to the tail, the lines are parallel. (Ignore the fact that mine are not!) The dragon is snake-like, so it doesn't get fatter and thinner and fatter. Keep the lines somewhat consistent.

Work on the head next. Add an open mouth, a lizard-like eye, and laid back ears. Put the outside front arm/leg at the lower end of the first downward swoop of the body. Make it curved upward, almost in a U-shape. A claw-like hand is added to the end of the arm.

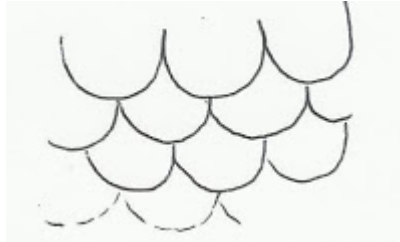
Erase the section of the body that the arm goes over. The other arm is behind the body so it will not show as much.

The back legs are then drawn near the bottom of the second swoop of the body. Add some claws to these legs, too. Spikes can be drawn along the spine. Give the dragon some fangs and teeth so that it looks legitimate! What's a dragon without fangs?



Now comes the fun part! Start adding the details that make each dragon unique! Have the students add beards, fire, horns, claws, extra spikes, whatever they like! And, of course, scales!

There are many types of scales, but my students mostly used the U-shaped scales in the picture. It works best if the points of the scales are positioned in the middle of each "U" in the row above them.



Dragons can be depicted in a variety of colours. Two or three colours per dragon is not unusual. You will want to add wings. Chinese dragons don't usually have wings, but they can put them on, if you like. A swirly cloud or two can also look nice, too. Let your imaginations students soar!