

Create a Tahitian landscape in the style of Gauguin

Step 1: Sketch the Main Composition

Let's begin by lightly sketching the layout of your Tahitian landscape, inspired by Paul Gauguin. Use a pencil to draw the large shapes first:

- Add a **distant mountain range** or hillside across the top third of the page.
- Sketch a **cluster of palm trees** on one side, with tall, curved trunks and large, fan-like leaves.
- In the foreground, draw **two or three figures** — these could be women in traditional dress, sitting or walking, as Gauguin often painted.
- On the opposite side, add a **small hut** or **canoe**, grounded in the scene.
- Keep the ground gently curved, and include some **simplified tropical plants or flowers** along the base.

Focus on bold shapes, simplified forms, and a balanced layout. Don't add texture or shading—just the basic outlines.



Step 2: Block in Gauguin-Style Shapes and Clothing

Now let's add bold details in the Gauguin style:

- Use simple, strong outlines to define the **clothing** of the figures. Gauguin often painted traditional pareos (wrap skirts) and loose tops.
- Add flowing **hair shapes** that are dark and smooth.
- Emphasise the flatness of forms—don't use shading, just clearly defined areas.
- Sketch in **facial features** with minimal lines: simple noses, eyes, and lips with no expression or fine detail.
- Draw in more defined lines for the **hut's roof and doorway**, and outline the **canoe** more firmly.
- Clarify the **leaf shapes** and the **flower petals** in the foreground, keeping the organic, decorative style Gauguin used.

Your lines should still be clean and confident—you're building up your painting layer by layer, just like Gauguin did.



Step 3: Add Decorative Details and Symbolic Patterns

Now it's time to add extra detail that brings the scene closer to Gauguin's unique style. Gauguin often filled his Tahitian landscapes with rich, symbolic elements and patterned textures.

For this step:

- Add **simple decorative patterns** to the clothing of each figure — such as floral or leaf motifs, stripes, or island-style borders.
- Add **bold texture lines** to the tree trunks, keeping them rhythmic and stylised.
- Decorate the hut roof with a **thatched line pattern**, hinting at straw or palm construction.
- Introduce **flat patterning** in the landscape — such as repeated waves on the water or curved lines in the grass — while keeping it stylised and uncluttered.
- Make sure all marks are clear and solid, not sketchy or shaded.

These additions should feel bold, symbolic, and harmonious, not realistic — just like Gauguin's work.



Step 4: Add Colour in Gauguin's Style

Now it's time to bring your Tahitian scene to life with colour — just like Paul Gauguin would have done!

For this step:

- Use **bold, flat colours** with very little blending or shading. Gauguin didn't try to be realistic — he used expressive colour to show mood and symbolism.
- Colour the **sky** in soft yellow, orange, or light turquoise — not always blue!
- Paint the **mountains** in earthy reds, purples or oranges rather than realistic greens.
- Give the **trees and plants** deep, rich greens and ochres — even purple if it suits your mood.
- Choose **vivid colours for the women's clothes**: bright reds, mustard yellow, cobalt blue, or deep black with vibrant patterns.
- Make the **hut and canoe** stand out using sandy browns, oranges, or even dark teal.
- Keep skin tones warm and rich, but not overly detailed — use soft peach, gold or brown tones.

🎨 Don't worry about matching real colours — Gauguin used imagination and emotion instead of realism. Just enjoy using bold, confident colours to complete your painting.

