Ladybug

What you'll need

Paint – Red, black, white and blue (or your choice of colors)

Brushes – Med and small flats, small round, liner

Other – Chalk, pencil, optional felt circles and stylus

Select a rock

1. Small round or oval rocks are the perfect shape for ladybugs. For this project, I used the larger rock. You can paint them yellow, orange, purple, pink, gold or just about any color you want. Photo 2

Photo 2   Ladybug shaped rocks.

Photo 3   Basecoat your rock white.

Basecoat the rock

2. Paint the rock white with a medium size flat brush. Colors like red and yellow are brighter when painted on a white background. Photo 3

3. Apply two or three coats of paint until you have solid coverage. I used red, but you could use any color of your choice. Photo 4
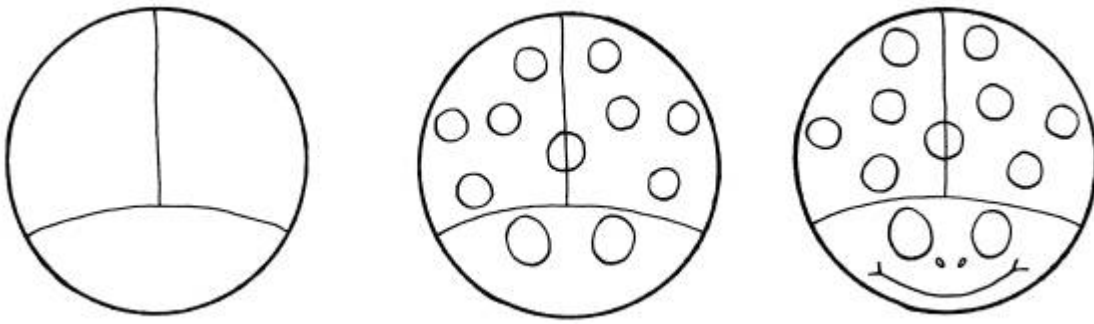

Photo 4   Apply 2 or 3 coats for solid coverage

Photo 5   Three stages in drawing the basic ladybug design.

Sketch the layout

4. Refer to the sketch above to design your ladybug. Feel free to make changes to your bug. Photo 5

Photo 6   Sketch the head and wing line.

5. With chalk, sketch the head shape and a line down the center of the body. Photo 6

Photo 7   Paint the head black.

6. With black paint and a small flat brush, paint the head area. Apply two coats if needed to get solid coverage. Photo 7

Adding the dots

7. Apply black dots to the body. Paint them with a round brush, or use your finger as in the reference photos. Pour a fresh puddle of black paint and dip you finger tip into the paint. Photo 8

Photo 8   Dip finger in black paint

Photo 9   Apply dots to the body.

8. Press finger on the rock where you want the dot, then lift off. Dip you finger into the paint for each dot. Photo 9

Eyes, nose and mouth

9. With chalk, draw a line down the center of the face, dividing it in half. This will help you get an even placement for the eyes, nose and mouth. Sketch the mouth with chalk. Photo 10

Photo 10   Sketch face with chalk and use felt circles for eye templates.

10. If you have a steady hand, you can paint the eye circles freehand. If you have trouble getting them the same size and perfectly round, you can use various items to help you. For this project, I used flexible, self-stick felt circles. They are sold in stores to stick on the bottom of objects to protect surfaces. Since they stick, it makes even eye placement on the rock easier. If you don't have the felt circles, cut a circle out of heavy paper as a template to trace around. I used a pencil to draw around the circle, as the chalk is too thick to get a thin line. Photo 10

Photo 11 Paint eyes, nose and mouth white.

11. Remove the felt if used and paint the inside of the eyes white with a small round or flat brush. Apply two or three coats for solid coverage. Photo 11

12. On each side of the chalk line down the face, place two small nostril holes with a liner brush. Photo 11

13. Paint the mouth chalk lines white. Erase the chalk line dividing the face. Photo 11

14. This ladybug has blue eyes; so make a smaller blue circle inside the white circle. Again I used the felt circles that come in various sizes, but you could free hand paint them or create a paper template. Photo 12

15. After the blue paint has dried, place another smaller circle inside the blue circle and paint it black. Photo 12

16. Paint the mouth line red with a liner brush. Photo 12

Photo 12   Paint blue and black circles inside the eyes.

Final Details

17. Make white dots in the black part of the eyes with the end of a large rounded paintbrush handle or the large rounded end of a stylus. Dip the stylus or handle into a fresh paint puddle for each dot. Photo 13

18. Do the same for making antennas. Photo 13

Photo 13   Add dots to eyes and antennas with the end of a paintbrush

19. Your ladybug is now complete. Photo 14

You can make ladybugs in all colors and patterns. The pink and purple ladybug in the photo has goggle eyes glued on, making it an easy way for young kids to add eyes to their ladybugs. Photo 15

Photo 14   Ready to display

Photo 15   Various colors, patterns and face ideas