**Step 1**: Algebraically, arrange the given equation into the general form. \( y = a \cos b(x - h) + k \)

**Step 2**: By inspection, identify the amplitude, phase shifts and find the period using \( k \).

**Step 3**: Plot the following five points:

Point 1: \((h, a + k)\)  
Point 2: \((h + \frac{2\pi}{b}, k)\)  
Point 3: \((h + \frac{\pi}{b}, -a + k)\)  
Point 4: \((h + \frac{3\pi}{2b}, +k)\)  
Point 5: \((h + \frac{2\pi}{b}, a + k)\)
EXAMPLE: Given \( y = 5 \cos(3x + \frac{3\pi}{2}) + 1 \), graph the cosine function.

Step 1: By factoring out a 3, we can rewrite equation in the general form as \( y = 5 \cos 3(x - (-\frac{\pi}{2})) + 1 \)

Step 2: By inspection: \( a = 5; \ k = -\frac{\pi}{2}; \ b = 3; \ ) Period \( = \frac{2\pi}{k} = \frac{2\pi}{3} \)

Step 3: Plot Pt1: \((-\frac{\pi}{2}, 6)\) Pt2: \((-\frac{\pi}{3}, 1)\) Pt3: \((-\frac{\pi}{6}, -4)\) Pt4: \((0, 1)\) Pt5: \((\frac{\pi}{6}, 6)\)