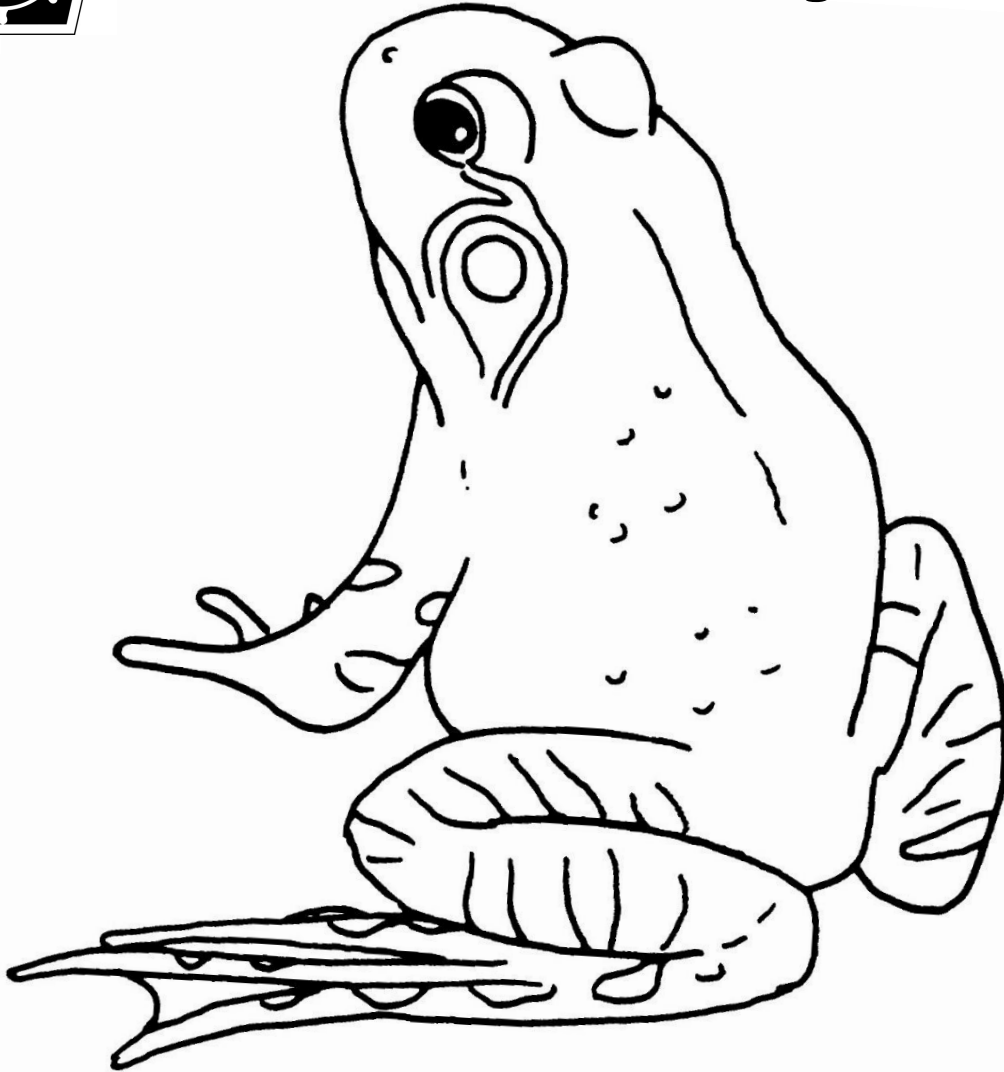




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

American Bullfrog



All About Me: Hello! I am an American Bullfrog. We are large, broad-shaped, and grow from 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 inches long. We are powerful swimmers with long, strong hind legs and fully webbed feet. When under water, our skin acts as a large gill allowing us to breathe. We have large, protruding eyes. We have no outer ears; however, we have external eardrums. On male bullfrogs, the eardrum is larger than the eye. We have folds of skin (dorsolateral ridges) that begin at our eyes, run around our eardrums and down to our forelegs. We are green to yellow on our backs and the tops of our heads. Our bellies are creamy white and mottled with gray. Our legs are marked with spots or dark bars. We live across PA in lakes, ponds, slow-moving creeks and rivers where there is vegetation for cover. We will sit in the grasses lining the water's edge. In autumn, we swim to the bottom and burrow into soft mud to hibernate. We have a single, internal vocal sac under our chins that do not look bubble-like as they do for other frogs. Our call can be heard a quarter mile away. Our song sounds like a gravel-voiced, deep jug-o'-rum . . . jug-o'-rum. We call from May to August. We may eat almost any smaller animal that we can catch. We are known to eat crayfish, insects, other frogs, small fish, bats, birds, snakes, and even baby turtles.