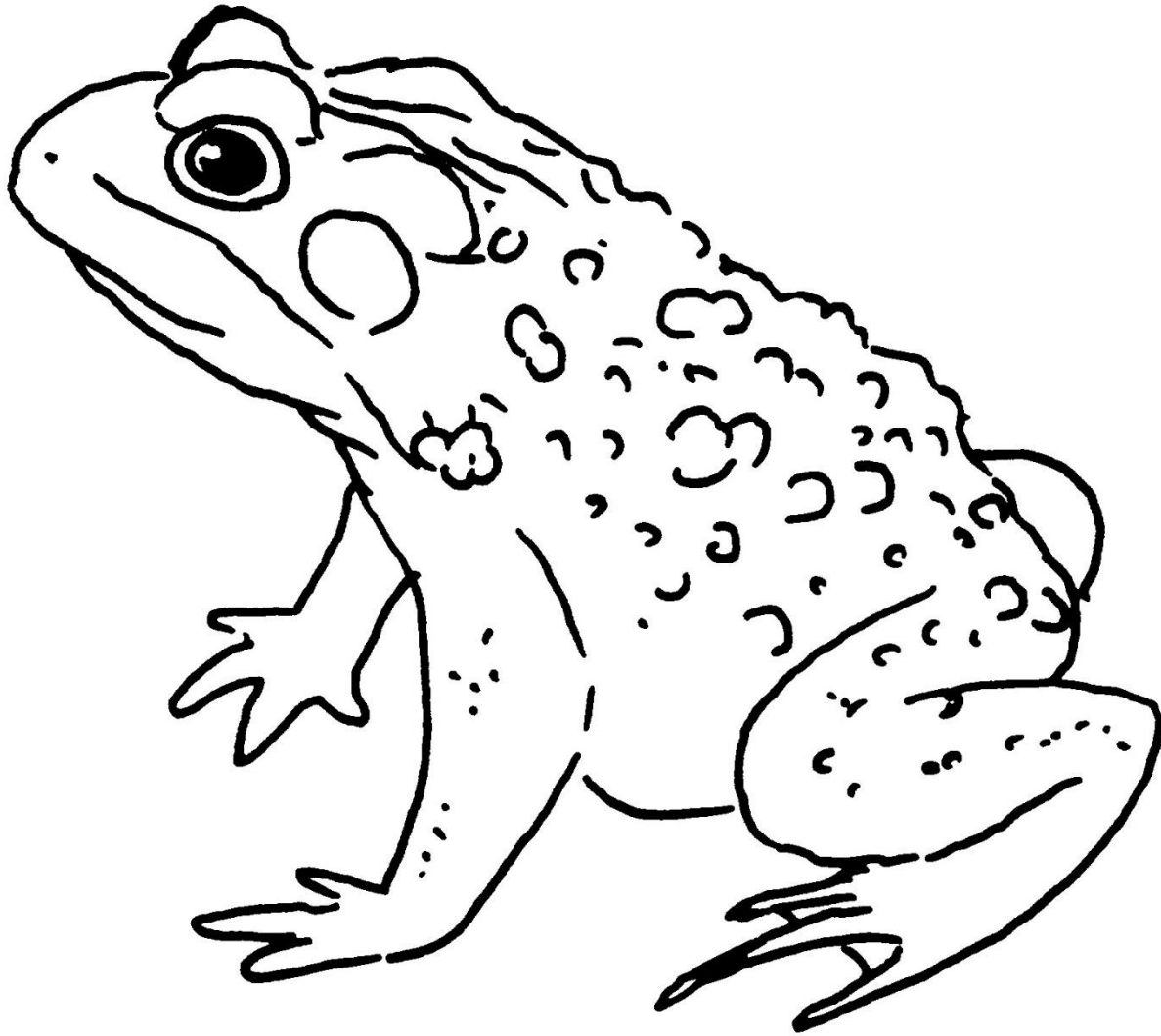




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

## American Toad



All About Me: I'm the Eastern American Toad. We grow from two to 3 1/2 inches long. We have patterns or patches on our bodies in light colors, buff or yellowish in color, over a background that is brown, olive or even brick red. Dark spots in brown or black cover our backs. Our larger spots contain one or two warts. Our parotoid gland (located behind the eye) is kidney shaped. We are mostly nocturnal and spend our days sheltered in leaf piles or under loose rocks. We live in a variety of habitats from well-manicured lawns to grassy fields and heavily forested, often rocky areas. We are a friend of farmers and gardeners because we eat many insects, mosquitos included. We also eat worms and caterpillars. We catch prey with our sticky tongue. Fastened at the front of the mouth, our tongues can be flipped out and extended two inches. We hibernate in the ground in loose soil. Males begin calling in early spring, around March. The males sing night and day. The call is a musical trill that lasts up to 30 seconds.