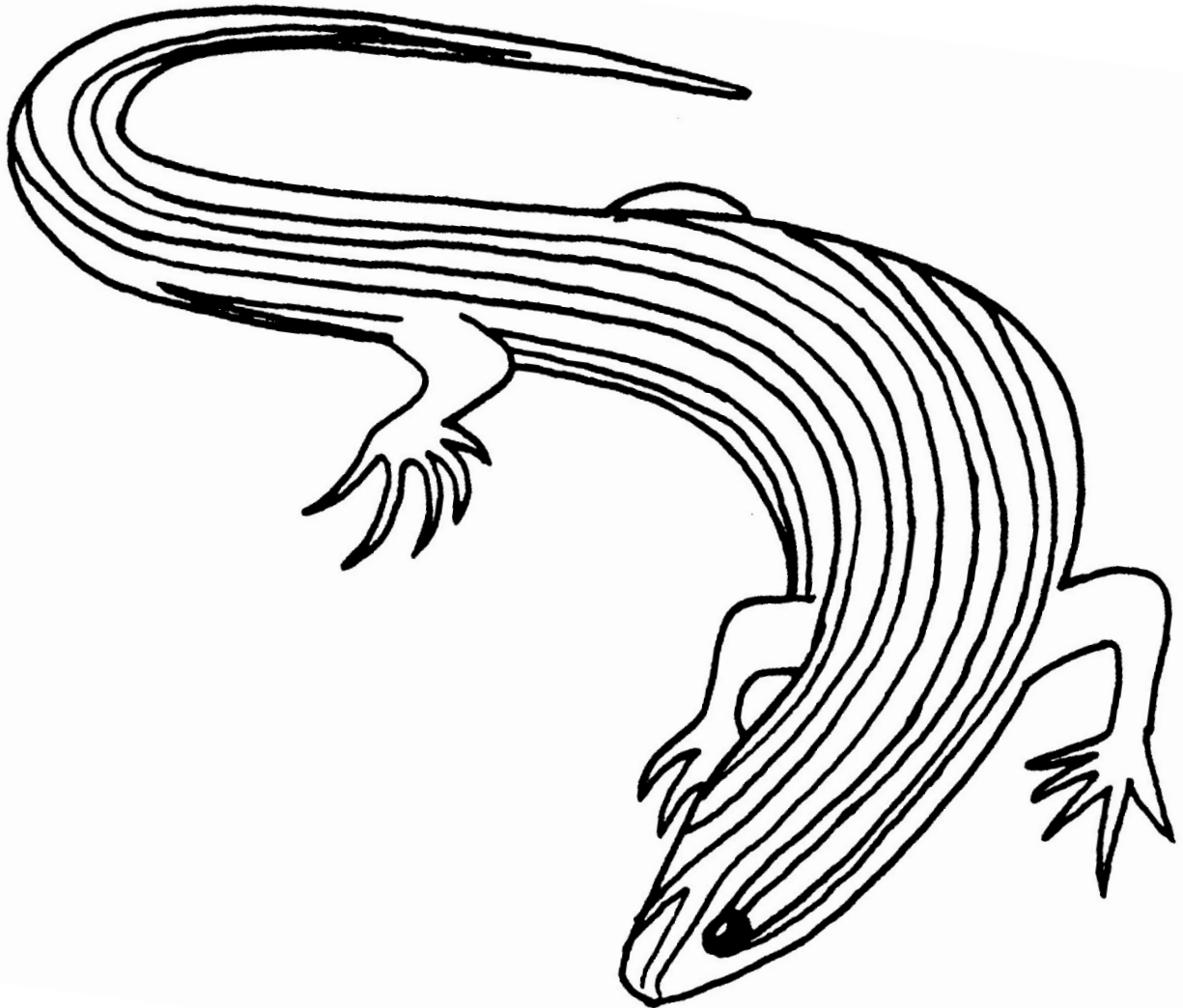




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

Five-lined Skink



All About Me: Hello! I am a Five-lined Skink, and I am one of Pennsylvania's lizards! We are most comfortable in a temperature range of 78 to 85 degrees. Like other skinks, we are diurnal (active during the day) and spend most of the day searching for food. We reach sizes from five to just over seven inches in length. We are gray, brown or black with five broad, light yellow to white stripes running the length of our bodies. In some adults, the pattern nearly fades completely with age. As the ground color becomes lighter, the stripes become darker. The tails of juveniles are bright blue, turning gray as they grow older. During the breeding season, the heads of males are swollen and turn orange. We inhabit about two-thirds of the state, generally south of a line drawn from Crawford County in the west to Bucks County in the east. We occasionally are seen in gardens or around homes, especially in damp areas, but we prefer humid woodlands, power line clear cuts. We are attracted to decaying leaf piles and logs in forests and woodlots. We will climb decayed standing trees (snags) looking for insects. We eat insect larvae, spiders, crustaceans, worms, and even small mice.