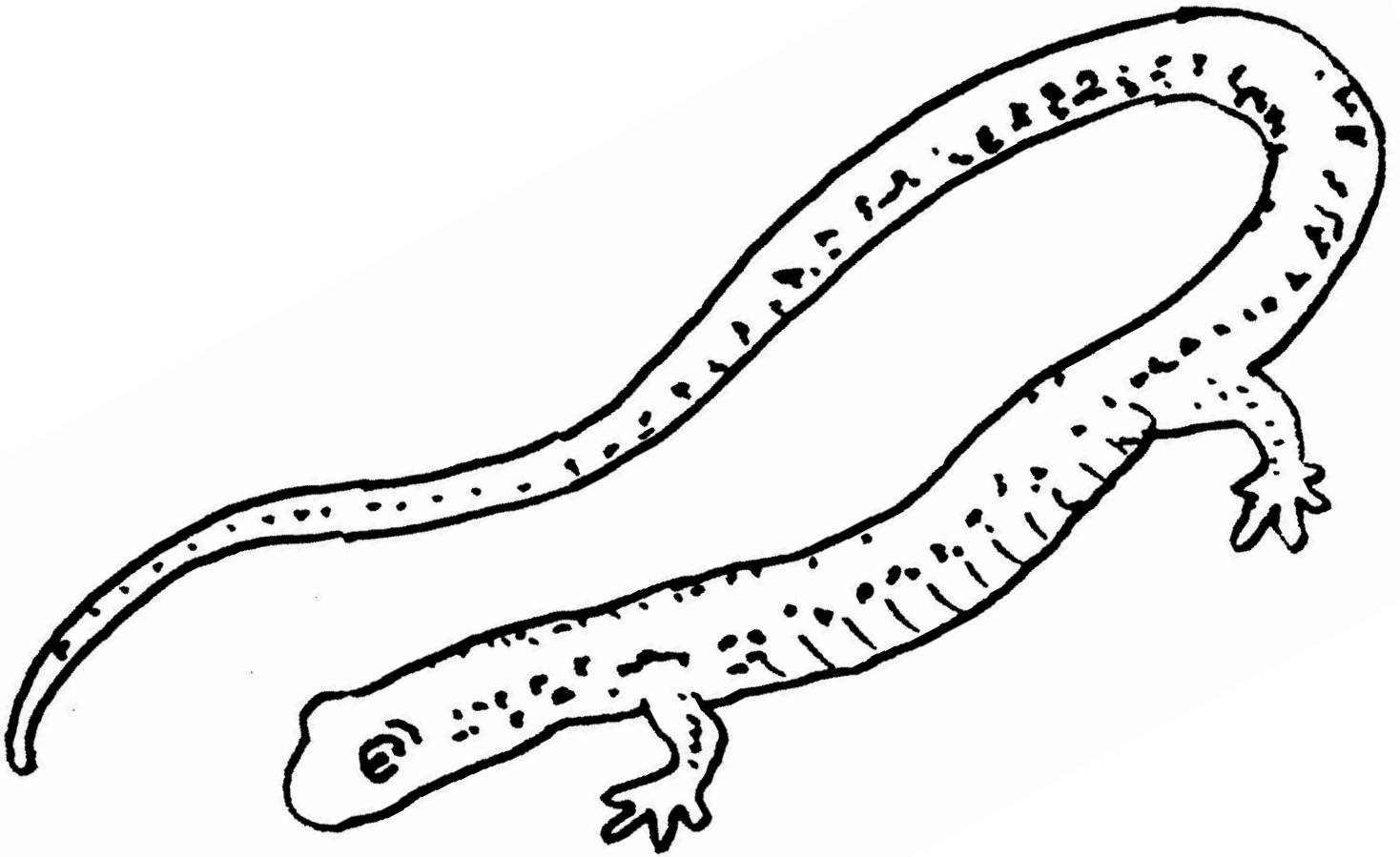




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

# Long-tailed Salamander



All About Me: Hello! I am a Long-tailed Salamander! We are one of the so-called "brook" salamanders. We are usually found in or near small waters with few or no fish. We attain adult sizes of four to just over six inches in length. Most of this length is tail, because it is more than half of our total body length. We are nocturnal, but we may be seen moving about during the day after a heavy rainfall. Much longer than our body, our tail is slender, but continues our coloration and pattern that begin on our head. We are yellow to bright red-orange and we are marked with contrasting black spots. Our spots are heavier on our sides than across our back, and on our tail the spots may combine to form vertical bars. We have 13 or 14 costal grooves (skin folds on the sides). We are a statewide resident, except for a small area of PA that drains into Lake Erie. We inhabit caves and abandoned mine tunnels, but more often, we find homes near small streams, seeps and springs. We wait for nightfall, hidden under rotting logs, stones, and streamside boulders. We also reside in banks of shale where we dart among the cracks and crannies in search of food. We hunt at night for invertebrates, including grubs, and any number of insects.