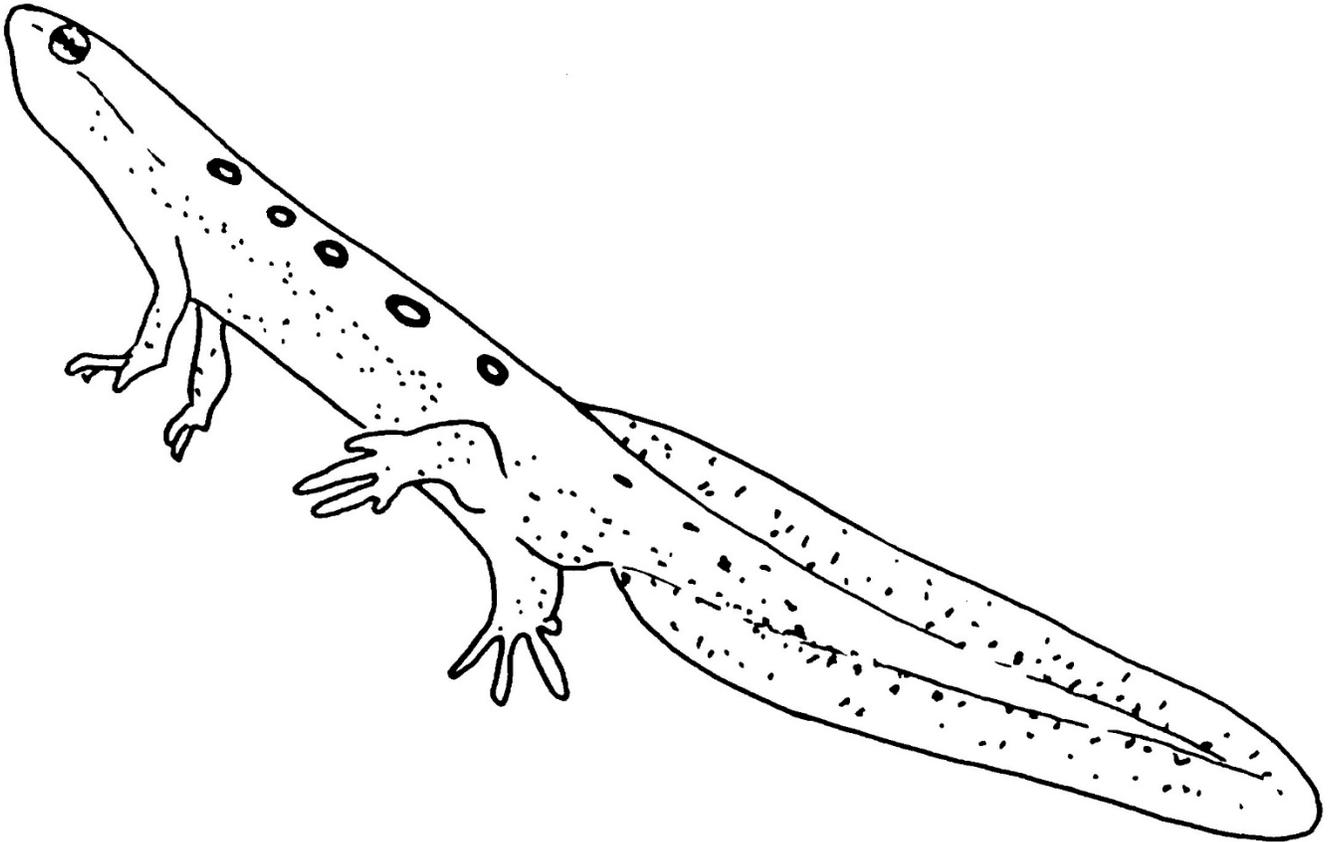




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

# Red-Spotted Newt



All About Me: Howdy! I'm a Red-Spotted Newt. I am the adult stage of an amphibian that morphs through three stages: I started out as an aquatic larvae that hatched from an egg; then I became a terrestrial sub-adult stage, called a red eft; and finally, I transformed into a mature adult red-spotted newt that returned to a life in the water. Each stage has its own colors and eats different prey. Adult newts can be 3 to 4 inches long. Our skin is smooth, and we have a flattened tailfin that looks like a rudder. Our color is drab olive to yellowish brown or dark brown. Our bellies are yellow and sprinkled with numerous small black spots. A row of red spots, bordered with black, also covers our backs on each side. We secrete a toxic substance from glands in our skin to keep predators away. We prefer water that is still—ponds, shallow lakes, marshland and quiet stretches of streams. We need clean water, and if it is covered with submerged plants, that's a plus! We can be seen scrambling among the stems of aquatic plants and across a pond's bottom. We consume worms, small crustaceans and mollusks, young amphibians and eggs and larvae of amphibians. We love to eat fish eggs when we find them!