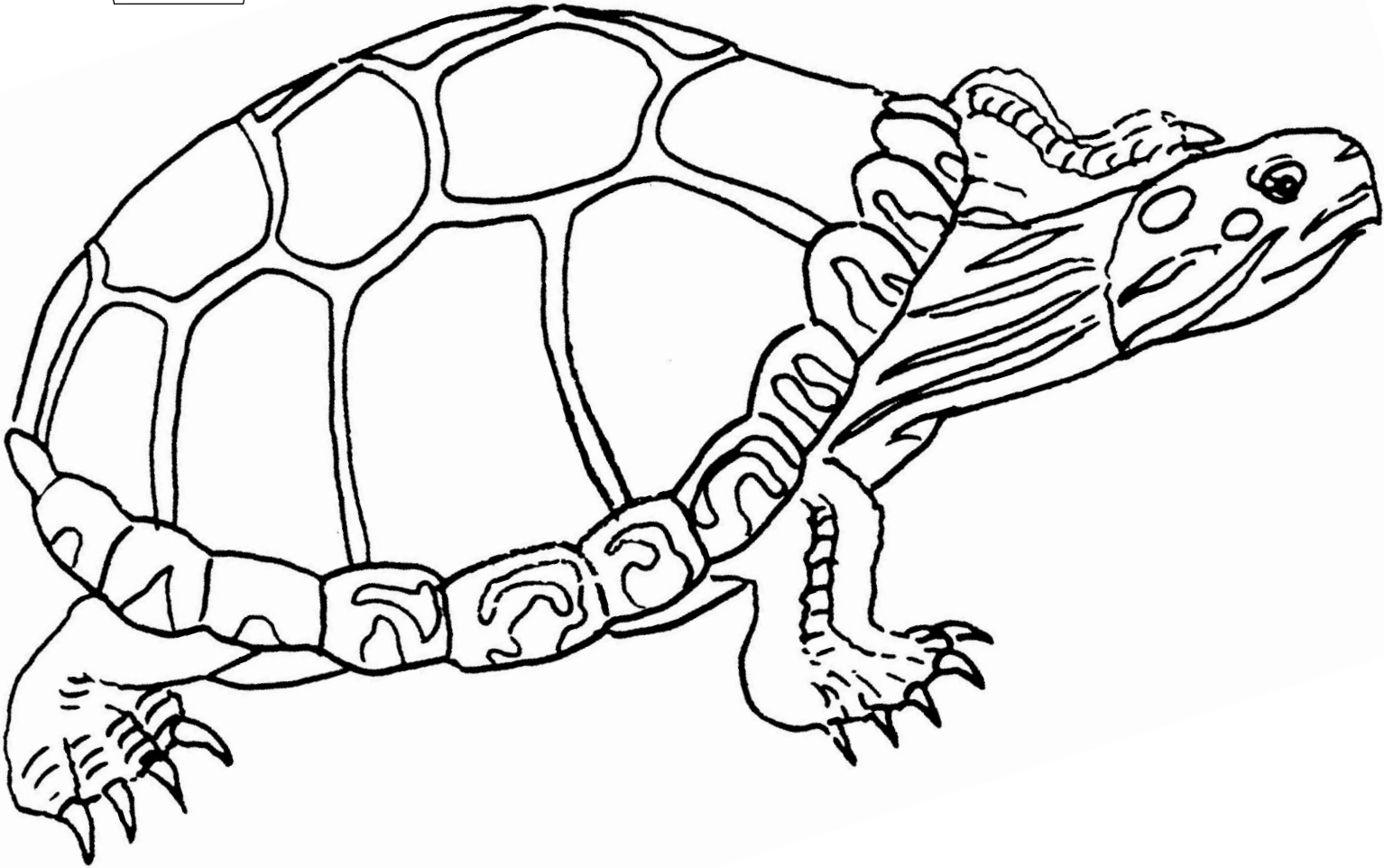




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

# Midland Painted Turtle



All About Me: Hello! I am a Midland Painted Turtle. We are one of the most widespread turtles across North America. We are not particularly large as turtles go. Our carapace (upper shell) reaches lengths of four to six inches. Our carapace is olive or black, oval, smooth, and somewhat flattened. We have red and black markings on the edges of our shells, in the form of bars or crescent-shaped patterns, which are a good identifying characteristic for us. Our plastron is an unmistakable yellow or red with a dark blotch in its center. Each side of our heads are marked with bright-yellow spots and stripes, and yellow and red stripes are found on our necks, legs and tails. Our upper jaw is notched. We are found across all of PA. We are fond of basking, and often we are seen sunning on large rocks beside a slow-moving stream or river. We are attracted to shallow areas of lakes. We really like streams with soft bottoms, generously sprinkled with vegetation and dotted with submerged logs. While young, we are carnivorous, but we become more herbivorous with age. We eat insects, crayfish and mollusks early in life, then turn to various aquatic plants.