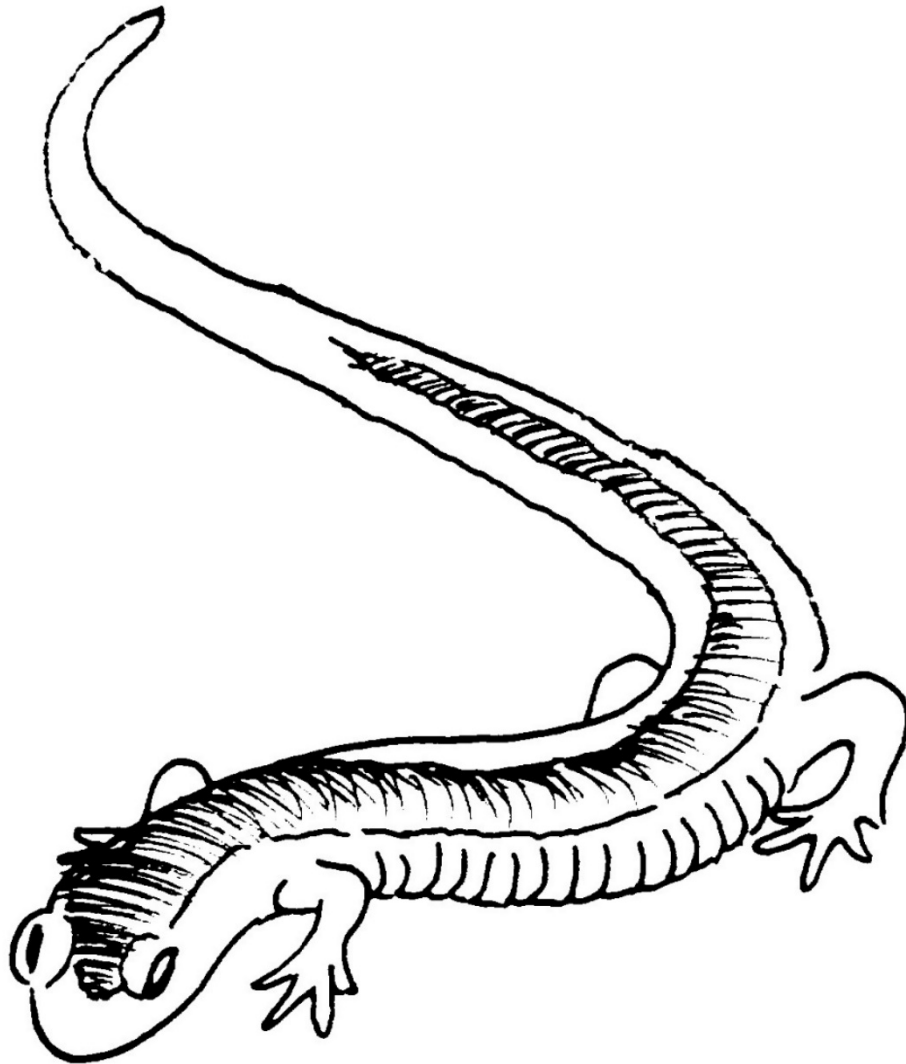




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

Red-Backed Salamander



All About Me: Hi! I'm an Eastern Red-Backed (or Redback) Salamander. We can have three different color phases; we can have a red back, a lead (dark grey) back or rarely can be just red! Other than color, we are all identical. We are small, between 2-3 inches long. We are long and slender. Regardless of the color phase, our bellies are mottled in a distinct pattern of black and white. There can be between 18-20 costal grooves on our sides. We are one of the most common salamanders found across Pennsylvania. We favor cool, moist forests where we can hide under stones, old logs and leaf piles during the daytime hours, but we can also be found far from water. In dry weather, we seek even more protection by burrowing underground and only emerge after a rainfall. We are nighttime foragers that prowl through leafy debris looking for very small invertebrates.