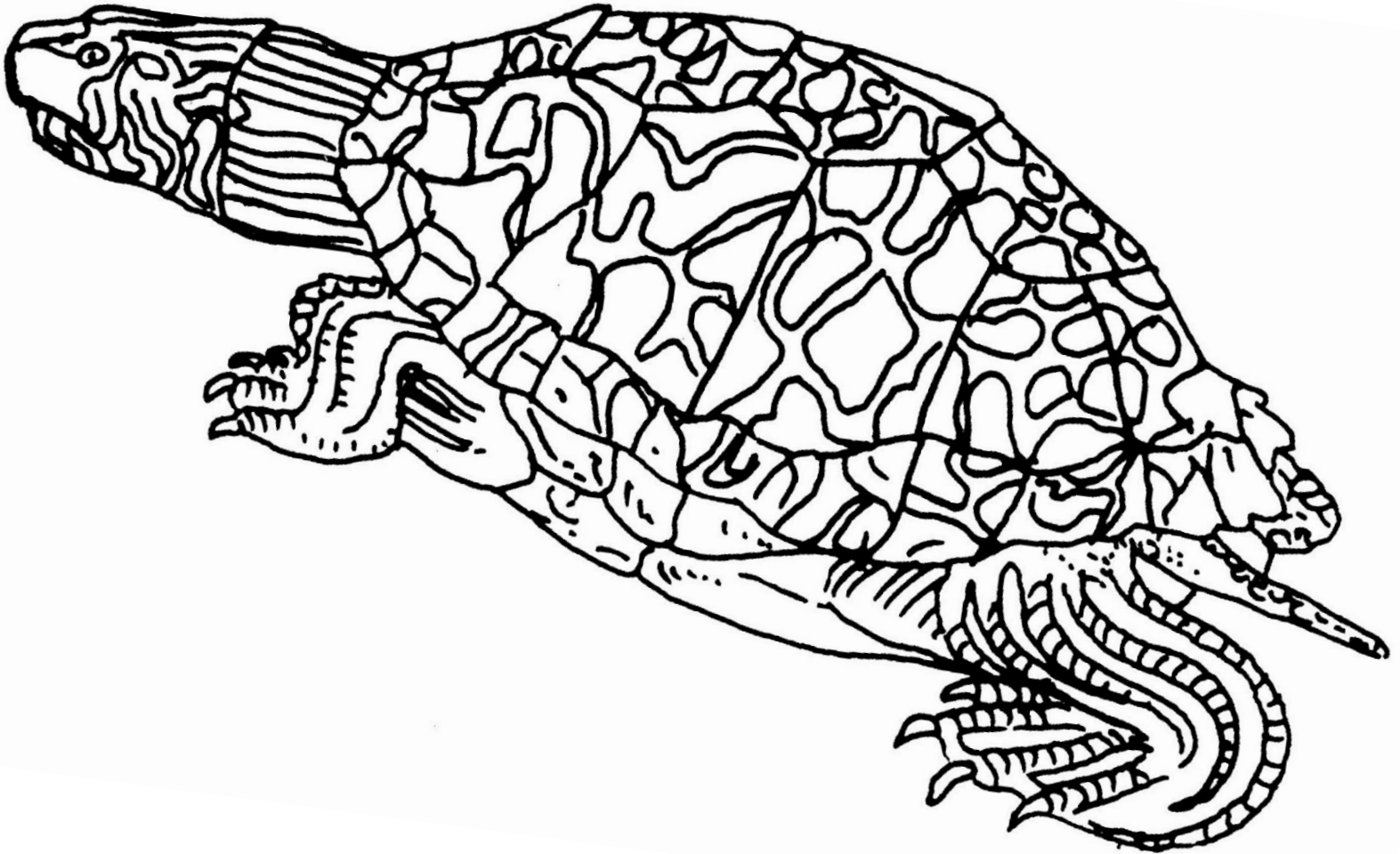




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

Map Turtle



All About Me: Hello, I am a Map Turtle, we are large turtles with carapace (upper shell) lengths of seven to 11 inches. Our carapace is green to olive brown. The irregular pattern of thin, yellow lines running randomly like roads on a map on our carapace gives us our name. Our carapace is flat and marked with a keel. Our plastron (lower shell) is yellow without markings. Our heads, necks and tails are marked with thin yellow lines. A yellow triangular spot appears behind each of our eyes. We are found in three portions of Pennsylvania. We can be found along Lake Erie, a small portion of the Ohio River Drainage, the Susquehanna River Basin and the lower Delaware River Basin. We are commonly found within these areas. We prefer slow-moving, large rivers and lakes over small streams and ponds. We like muddy bottoms with plenty of vegetation. We hibernate later and come out of hibernation sooner than many other turtles in our state. We eat some plants, but we mostly enjoy clams, crayfish, and snails.