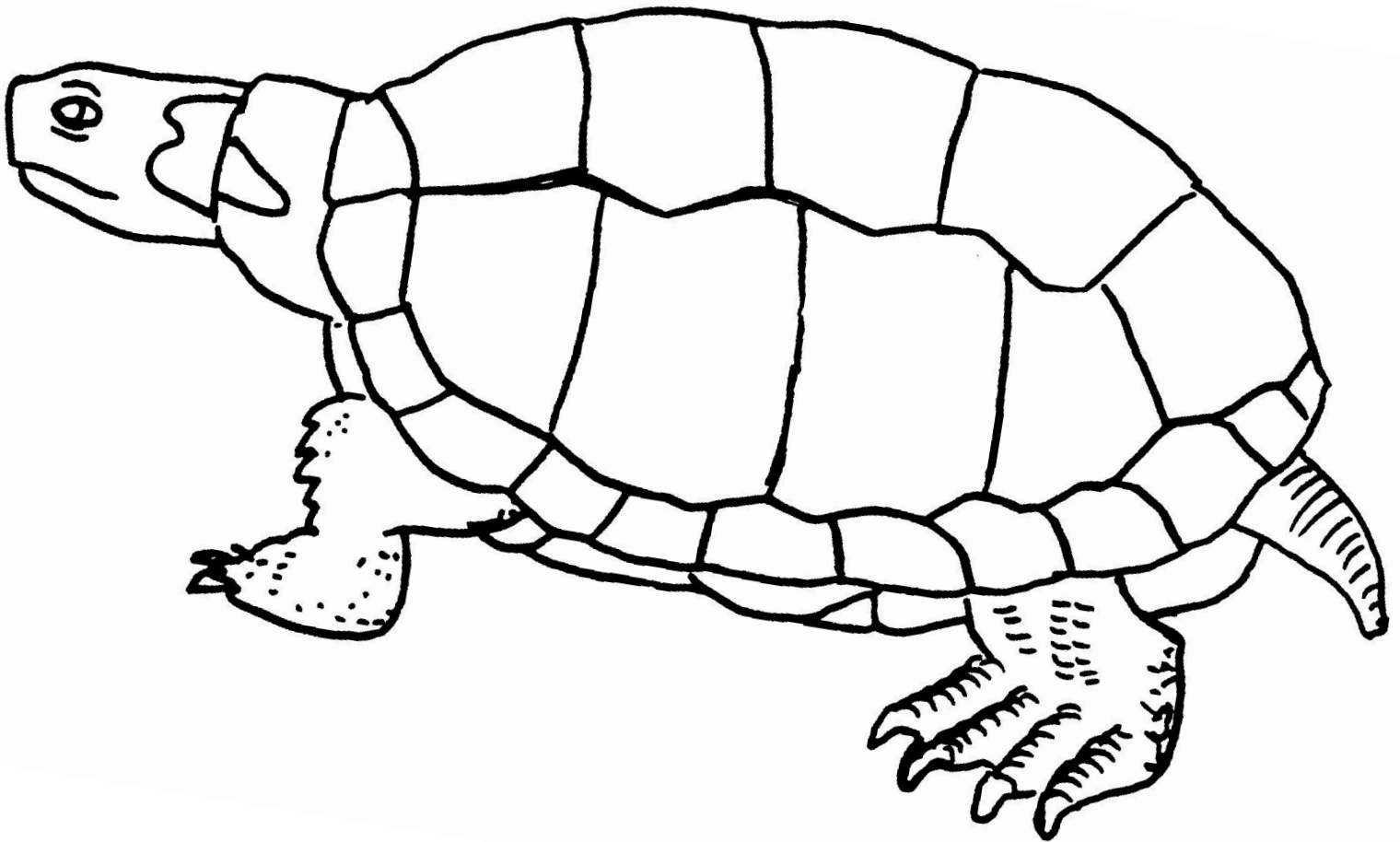




# Bog Turtle



All About Me: Hi! I am a Bog Turtle, and we were the first turtle included on the Pennsylvania List of Endangered Species. We are found only in isolated populations. Habitat loss has been the biggest reason for our decline. We are a secretive reptile. Despite our shy nature, we still like to bask in full sunlight atop tufts of grass or on logs. We are active from April into October. We hibernate in mud flooded over by water. We may bury ourselves and become inactive on hot summer days as well. We never reach more than four inches long along our shells. Our carapaces (upper shells) are light brown to mahogany. Our large scutes may have a tinge of yellow or red marks in their centers. Our plastrons are hingeless and brown or black with yellow along the middle. Our heads are black and marked with a yellow, orange or red blotch on each side, an important identification characteristic. In PA, our distribution splits into two separate historic ranges. Our largest range includes southeastern PA, extends west to Franklin County and north to the Poconos. Our other, smaller range in PA, includes portions of three counties in the northwestern corner near Ohio; however, it's doubtful we still occur in this range. We live in wetlands, bogs, marshes, swamps, and wet pastures. We eat wild berries, slugs, tadpoles, snails, worms, insects, and the shoots of tender plants.