

# Life of a Groundhog

1. Groundhogs are famous for predicting \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Groundhog Day is on \_\_\_\_\_ second.
3. Groundhogs are the largest animal in the \_\_\_\_\_ family.
4. Groundhogs are also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Groundhogs prepare for \_\_\_\_\_ by putting on weight.
6. Groundhogs are diurnal, meaning they are active during the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Groundhogs, like many small animals, dig \_\_\_\_\_ to live in.
8. Groundhogs can swim and \_\_\_\_\_ trees.
9. A baby groundhog is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Punxsutawney \_\_\_\_\_ is the famous groundhog who makes the prediction each February.

## Word Bank

Phil kit February burrows  
climb hibernation day woodchucks  
rodent Pennsylvania Spring

# Groundhog Report

1. What group do groundhogs belong to?

- a) Mammals    b) Rodents    c) Reptiles    d) Amphibians

2. Groundhogs have two coats of fur - what are they?

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3. Groundhogs are herbivores. What do herbivores eat?

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4. In the wild, groundhogs live about 2-3 years on average. What are some predators of groundhogs?

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5. Groundhogs can often be found in burrows! What are some things they use their burrows for?

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*Draw a groundhog trying to find his shadow!*

# Hibernation

Groundhogs are experts at hibernation! In fact, they often have burrows specifically for hibernating. Hibernation is when animals hide away during the winter. Some animals go into a deep sleep, while others stay in tunnels or holes underground.



1. What do animals do to prepare for hibernation?

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2. What happens to an animal's body during hibernation?

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3. Why do animals hibernate?

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4. Do you think you would like hibernation? Why or why not?

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# Is it true?

Groundhog Day came to America from Germany in the late 1800s. The first official Groundhog Day was February 2, 1887!

A man named Clymer H. Freas was the editor of a small paper in Pennsylvania. He called the town's groundhog the "Official Groundhog Day meteorologist." Groundhog Day was born!

According to the legend, if it is cloudy and the groundhog does not see his shadow, spring will come early! If the groundhog sees his shadow, then winter will continue for six more weeks!

Over the past 29 years, the groundhog has been right 14 times and wrong 15 times! Still, it is a fun tradition!



## Activity

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On February 2, go outside and see if you can see your shadow on the ground! Then, watch the news and see if the groundhog sees his shadow! Did you come to the same conclusion?

As the months go by, see if you (or the groundhog) was correct!