

- Read about this tradition. Then, do the activity.

Groundhog Day is celebrated on February 2nd and it is the day when people look to the groundhog to predict the weather for the next six weeks.

Folklore says that if the sun is shining when the ground hog comes out of his burrow, then the groundhog will go back into its burrow and we will have winter for six more weeks. However, if it is cloudy, then spring will come early that year.

This is a tradition in the United States. There are a number of celebrations throughout the United States. The largest celebration takes place in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania where the famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil has predicted the weather each year since 1886. Large crowds of well over 10,000 people gather here to see Phil come out of his burrow at around 7:30am.

The origins of Groundhog Day can be traced to German settlers in Pennsylvania. These settlers celebrated February 2nd as Candlemas Day. On this day if the sun came out then there would be six more weeks of wintry weather.

At some point people began to look to the groundhog to make this prediction. The earliest reference to the groundhog is in an 1841 journal entry. In 1886 the Punxsutawney newspaper declared February 2nd as Groundhog Day and named the local groundhog as Punxsutawney Phil. Since then the day and tradition has spread throughout the United States.



Write TRUE or FALSE

1- Groundhog Day is celebrated on February 2nd. _____

2- If the sun is shining when the groundhog comes out of its burrow, there will be six more weeks of winter. _____

3- Groundhog Day is only celebrated in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. _____

4 -The tradition of Groundhog Day originated from German settlers in Pennsylvania.

5- The groundhog's prediction is based on whether the sun is shining or if it is cloudy.

6- Groundhog Day has been celebrated since 1886. _____

7 - Groundhog Day is a tradition celebrated worldwide. _____

8 - The groundhog's name is Punxsutawney Phil.

9- Groundhog Day is a religious holiday.

10 -The groundhog's prediction is accurate.
