Read the following paragraph titles for the article on page six and match them to the correct paragraph. Two titles are not needed.

1. Follow the leader 2. Groundhog sandwich 3. Usually longer winters 4. A popular movie 5. German predictions 6. European similarities 7. Newspaper stories 8. The birth of Groundhog Day 9. Groundhog versus beaver

The Day of the Groundhog

The story behind an American tradition

A. _____ In 1993, the movie Groundhog Day was released and was extremely popular. The movie was praised for its positive outlook and while it made everyone who watched it laugh, it also brought attention to one of the most charming and longest-running traditions in the USA.

B. _____It is thought that the ceremony began in Germany in the 16th century and was used to predict when winter would end. The Germans would pick a wild creature from a selection which included badgers and hedgehogs and if the sun was bright enough to be able to see the animals shadow it meant there would be 40 more days of winter. However, if the animal couldn't see its shadow, it would mean that winter was going to end soon.

C. _____ In the 18th century a few hundred people from Germany followed Jakob Ammann, a Swiss religious leader and settled in Pennsylvania. Over the years the people who lived there preserved many cultural beliefs from Europe and became a group who are known as the Pennsylvania Dutch or the Pennsylvania Germans.

D. _____ The Pennsylvania Dutch were and are very proud of where they come from. They want to celebrate and honor a number of their old traditions and that is how Grundsaudaag was born.

E. _____ Grundsaudaag was similar to their old spring predicting ceremony from Europe, but it had to involve an animal which wasn't native to Germany and that is how the groundhog got its chance.

F. _____ Groundhog Day is now linked to the attractive little town of Punxsutawney in Pennsylvania. The importance of this town in relation to Groundhog Day is because it was written about in 1886 when a local newspaper printed a story about the event that included the line "up to the time of going to press, the beast has not seen its shadow".

G. _____ These days the pressure of predicting an early spring is down to only one groundhogPunxsutawney Phil. Every year on the 2nd of February, Phil emerges to an audience of hundreds all hoping to hear that winter is coming to an end soon. Unfortunately, records show that over the years the groundhog has seen his shadow 107 times and not seen his shadow 20 times, meaning that winter has been prolonged a lot more than it has been shortened.

sources: wikipedia.org, bbc.com, pressherald.com, usatoday.com, thenewstribune.com

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