

Celebrate **Groundhog Day**

Grades K to 3

About this book:

This book has been written to provide students with information on the mammal called a groundhog. It will also acquaint students with legends and to understand their meanings and superstitions. Students have the opportunity to study shadows and experiment with them. They will have the opportunity to learn about Groundhog Day or Candlemas Day and how it is celebrated in North America. Many previously learned skills can be practiced such as Phonics, Word Study, Reading, Science, Creative Writing, and Mathematics.

Written by Ruth Solski



About the author:

Ruth Solski was an educator for 30 years. She has written many educational resources and is the founder of S&S Learning Materials. As a writer, her main goal is to provide teachers with a useful tool that they can implement in their classrooms to bring the joy of learning to children.

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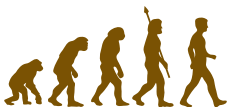
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THE LEGEND OF GROUNDHOG DAY

By Ruth Solski



All winter long the groundhog sleeps in his snug burrow deep under the ground. On February the second, he wakes up and feels hungry. He comes out of his burrow to search for food.

If the sun is shining, while the groundhog is outside, he will see his own shadow. This frightens him and he returns to his burrow. Spring will not come for six more weeks.





If it is a cloudy day, there will be no shadows and the groundhog will not be frightened. He will stay outside of his burrow and spring will come very soon.

This belief that animals could foretell the weather began in Europe hundreds of years ago. Many of the people living then were farmers. The weather was very important to them. An early spring meant they could plant their crops early and have an early harvest.

Every year on Candlemas Day, the farmers would watch for an animal leaving its burrow. German farmers watched for a badger. Farmers in England watched for a hedgehog. They believed the animals could forecast the weather for the next six weeks.

When settlers came to North America they could not find badgers or hedgehogs near their homes. The farmers did not know when to plant their crops.

They soon discovered a North American animal that left its burrow at the end of winter. The animal was a groundhog, sometimes called a woodchuck or a marmot. From that time on the farmers watched for a groundhog to appear on February the second.

February the second came to be called Groundhog Day. It is the only holiday on our calendar named for an animal.





Warton Willie's Reading

Activity #3

Read the story called **"The Legend of Groundhog Day"**.

Answer each question with a **complete** sentence answer.

1. What happens to the groundhog if the sun is shining?

2. What happens to the weather if the groundhog does see its shadow?

3. When does the groundhog not return to its burrow? Why?

4. What is the weather forecast if the groundhog doesn't see its shadow?

5. Where and when did the belief that animals could forecast the weather begin?

6. Who believed that animals could foretell the weather? Why?

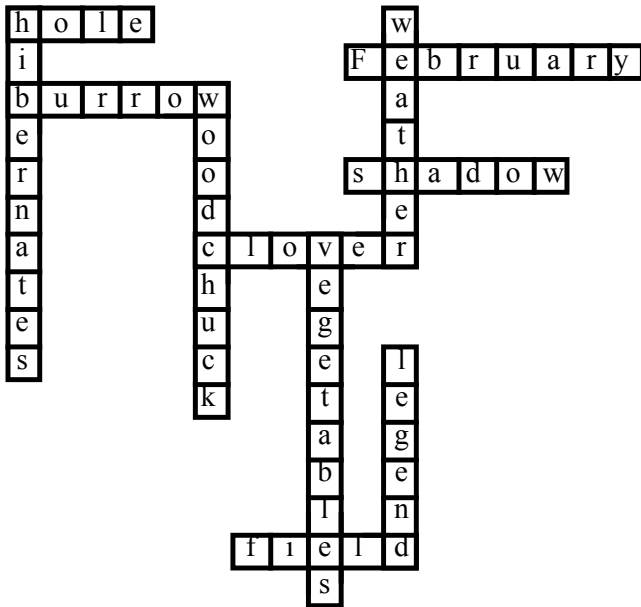
7. Why did the early settlers in North America choose to watch the groundhog?





Answer Key Cont'd

Word Study Activity #7: Crossword Page 69



Reading Activity #1: Completing Sentences Page 76

- they were trying to get fat for their long winter sleep.
- red clover, alfalfa roots and vegetables.
- Mother Nature told the groundhogs it was time for them to hibernate.
- the ground was shaking.
- Barney Groundhog was snoring so loudly.
- he was sleeping on his back.
- they had to roll him onto his tummy.
- the earth had stopped trembling.
- they had to hibernate for the winter.

Reading Activity #2: Sequencing Events Page 80

6, 3, 7, 8, 12, 9, 1, 10, 4, 2, 11, 5

Reading Activity #3: Recalling Events Page 83

- The groundhog will be frightened by its shadow and will return to its burrow.
- There will be six more weeks of winter.
- He will stay out if it is cloudy. There are no shadows on a cloudy day.
- Spring will come very soon.
- It began in Europe hundreds of years ago.
- The farmers believed animals could foretell the weather. They knew when to plant their crops.
- They could not find badgers and hedgehogs in North America.

Reading Activity #4: Recalling Details Page 86

3, 4, 7, 1, 8, 2, 5, 6, 10, 9

Reading Activity #5: Context Clues Page 87 Story- The Groundhog:

Paragraph #1: woodchuck; small; squirrel; Canada; United States;

Paragraph #2: bushy; head; coarse; upper; under

Paragraph #3: burrows; rooms; entrance

Paragraph #4: looks; listens; danger; food; Alfalfa; clover; vegetable; pest

Paragraph #5: fall; amounts; store; hibernation

Reading Activity #6: Classifying Page 88

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. False | 5. False |
| 2. True | 6. False |
| 3. False | 7. True |
| 4. True | 8. False |

Reading Activity #7: Recalling Details Page 91

- a small town
- Pennsylvania
- Clymer H Freas
- Punxsutawney Groundhog Club
- Gobbler's Knob
- brown and black
- in the Punxsutawney Library
- Answers will vary. Any mentioned in the story.

Brainstorming #1: Classifying Animals Page 92

Possible Answers: cows, horses, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, beavers, porcupines, goats, sheep, monkeys, kangaroos, deer, moose, mice, rats, moles, zebras, antelopes, reindeer

Brainstorming #2: Pests Page 93

Possible Answers: grasshoppers, ants, mosquitoes, rabbits, raccoons, termites, crows, mice, rats, moths, flies, beavers

Brainstorming #3: Animal Homes Page 94

Possible Answers: nest, cave, tree, hole, in a tree, hollow log, beehive, hornet's nest, birdhouse, zoo, pond, river, lake, barn, chicken coop, stable, pen, mountains

Research #1: Dates/Special Days Page 95

Answers will vary.

