

# Groundhog Day

by ReadWorks



Dunkirk Dave. Buckeye Chuck. Queen Charlotte.

What do these three odd names have in common? They all belong to furry animals that can maybe see the future. And what are those furry animals? They're groundhogs!

Every year on February 2, all across America, a variety of groundhogs wake up. They go outside, and they check the weather. They check if they can see their shadows.

According to tradition, if it is a sunny day, the groundhog "sees its shadow." If it is a cloudy day, it does not.

February is part of the winter season, and in a lot of the country, it is cold! If the groundhog sees its shadow, legend has it that winter will last at least six more weeks.

But if it does not see its shadow, maybe, just maybe, spring will come early!

There is no evidence from science that groundhogs have special skills to know the weather. But since 1887, it has been a fun game to pretend they do. So each February 2, people hope that the groundhogs won't see their shadows!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What happens every year on February 2nd across America?

A. A variety of groundhogs wake up and go outside. They check the weather. They always see their shadows.

B. A variety of groundhogs wake up and go outside. They check the weather. They check if they can see their shadows.

C. A variety of groundhogs wake up and go outside. They check the weather. They never see their shadows.

2. What does the text describe?

A. a fun, American tradition for predicting the weather

B. scientific ways people use to predict the start of warmer weather

C. how groundhogs live and find food

3. The start of spring can't really be predicted based on whether a groundhog sees its shadow on February 2nd. What evidence from the text supports this statement?

A. "According to tradition, if it is a sunny day, the groundhog 'sees its shadow.' If it is a cloudy day, it does not."

B. "Every year on February 2, all across America, a variety of groundhogs wake up. They go outside, and they check the weather."

C. "There is no evidence from science that groundhogs have special skills to know the weather."

4. The title of this text is "Groundhog Day." Based on the information in the text, what is Groundhog Day?

A. Groundhog Day is when a groundhog can see its shadow on February 2nd, predicting the early start of spring that year.

B. Groundhog Day is on February 2nd every year. According to tradition, a groundhog can predict the start of spring that year based on if it can see its shadow.

C. Groundhog Day is when a groundhog can't see its shadow on February 2nd, predicting at least six more weeks of winter that year.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Every year on February 2, all across America, a variety of groundhogs wake up.
- B. February is part of the winter season in the United States, and in a lot of the country, it is cold! Winter may last six more weeks in some areas of the country.
- C. Groundhog Day is a fun tradition of pretending that a groundhog can predict the start of spring based on whether it sees its shadow.