

# Groundhog Day!

Do you know why February 2<sup>nd</sup> is called Groundhog Day?

\_\_\_\_\_ There is an old superstition that says if a groundhog comes out of hibernation and sees its shadow, it will go right back to sleep for another six weeks while winter weather continues. But if a groundhog doesn't see its shadow, spring weather will come early. Do you think this sounds scientific?

\_\_\_\_\_ It's not! They're only right half of the time.

The tradition began in Germany hundreds of years ago where February 2<sup>nd</sup> is a holiday called Candlemas. People would watch the badger to see if it came out of hibernation. In other countries people would watch bears or foxes.

What other animals hibernate in winter?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When Germans immigrated to America, they mostly settled in Pennsylvania, which has the most famous Groundhog Day celebration in the country.

A groundhog is also called a woodchuck. Try creating a tongue-twister that uses groundhog instead.

How much \_\_\_\_\_ could a groundhog  
\_\_\_\_\_ if a groundhog could \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

On the back, color in the picture of the groundhog.

# Happy Groundhog Day!

