

Groundhog Day

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Every February 2nd, people in Canada and the United States celebrate Groundhog Day. On this day, it is tradition to see how soon winter will end and spring will arrive. If a groundhog comes up from his hole in the ground and sees his shadow, then winter will end in six weeks. If the groundhog does not see his shadow, then spring will come early and winter will end soon.

Although this is not a public holiday, Groundhog Day **festivities** are still held in some places. These are usually held early in the morning of February 2nd. The biggest one is held each year in the town of Punxsutawney in Pennsylvania, United States. As many as 40,000 people gather there to watch if the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, will see his shadow. It is also shown on the news. This is a really big event for a town of only 6,000 people!

In 2015, about half of the groundhogs in official celebrations in Canada and the United States saw their shadows. As you can probably imagine, this is not a very **accurate** way of predicting the weather. However, Groundhog Day is a nice way of having a little fun near the end of a long winter.



1. According to the article, when is Groundhog Day?
 - a) February 1
 - b) February 2
 - c) February 3
 - d) February 4
2. According to the article, what will happen if a groundhog sees his shadow?
 - a) winter will come early
 - b) spring will end soon
 - c) there will be a festival
 - d) winter ends in six weeks
3. The word “festivities” in paragraph 2 could best be replaced with:
 - a) parties
 - b) problems
 - c) visits
 - d) programs
4. According to the article, Punxsutawney:
 - a) is a large city
 - b) is in Canada
 - c) has too many groundhogs
 - d) is a small town
5. The word “accurate” in paragraph 3 could best be replaced with:
 - a) funny
 - b) interesting
 - c) nice
 - d) correct
6. According to the article, Groundhog Day:
 - a) is a public holiday
 - b) is a serious event
 - c) is held only in Canada
 - d) is just a fun event

Answers: 1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (d)

