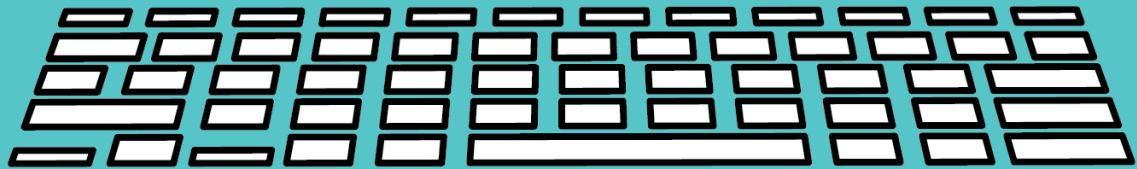


FROM THE
PHIL SEES HIS
SHADOW
EIGHTY FIVE
PERCENT OF
THE TIME

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. In what month is Groundhog Day?	
2. About how many inches long is a groundhog's tail?	
3. What is the process of sleeping all winter called?	
4. In what state is Punxsutawney?	
5. How many members are in the Inner Circle?	
6. Who was known as the pioneer of Groundhog Day?	
7. How many Inner Circle members can hold Phil?	
8. What would clergymen bless on Candlemas Day?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. In what month is Groundhog Day?		9. The groundhog is named Punxsutawney ____.	
2. About how many inches long is a groundhog's tail?		10. In 1886, people started to gather at Gobbler's ____.	
3. What is the process of sleeping all winter called?		11. Groundhogs are the largest animal in the ____ family.	
4. In what state is Punxsutawney?		12. The groundhog predicts the weather for the next ____ weeks.	
5. How many members are in the Inner Circle?		13. They can dig ____ 6 feet deep or 20 feet	
6. Who was known as the pioneer of Groundhog Day?		14. A baby groundhog is called ____ or cub.	
7. How many Inner Circle members can hold Phil?		15. In Canada, they have Wiarton ____.	
8. What would clergymen bless on Candlemas Day?		16. The origins of Groundhog Day date back to ancient ____.	



GROUNDHOG DAY

Groundhog Day is celebrated annually on February 2nd. It is not a federal holiday, but a day of entertainment and fun. Groundhog Day is when people use a groundhog to predict the weather pattern for the next six weeks.

The origins of Groundhog Day date back to ancient Europe when a badger was used to predict the weather instead of the groundhog. The custom from Europe carried over to Groundhog Day. On Candlemas Day, clergymen would light candles to predict the weather for the upcoming winter season.

If the candles brought some light, six more weeks of winter was expected. If the candles brought no light or a shadow, winter would end soon. According to folklore, if the groundhog sees his shadow, winter will last another six weeks. If the groundhog does not see his shadow, then spring will arrive soon. Groundhog Day traditions began as part of the Pennsylvania German tradition during the 18th century.

The largest celebration in the United States takes place in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. This is where the famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil lives. Crowds of up to 40,000 people gather to watch Punxsutawney Phil come out of his burrow early in the morning.

The diary of James L. Morris from Pennsylvania stated that Groundhog Day was first celebrated on February 2, 1840. However, it was not until 1886 when people started to gather at the Gobbler's Knob to watch the weather prediction of the groundhog. Clymer Freas, the editor of a local newspaper called the Punxsutawney Spirit, was known as the pioneer of Groundhog Day.

The largest celebration for Groundhog Day in Canada takes place in Warton, Ontario. Their famous groundhogs name is Warton Willie. Other countries such as Serbia, Germany and the United Kingdom also have similar spring forecasting traditions.

A groundhog is also known as a woodchuck. Groundhogs eat large amounts of food during summer and sleep all winter. This process is

called hibernation. A baby groundhog is called a kit or cub. Most groundhogs are around twenty inches long with a six inch tail.

When Punxsutawney Phil is not predicting the weather at Gobbler's Knob, he lives in the local library. Groundhogs are the largest animal in the squirrel family. Groundhogs, also known as marmots, can be found from Alaska all the way south to Georgia.

Groundhogs hibernate from October to February. Groundhogs are diurnal animals which means that they are active during the day. They are usually active early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Groundhogs have sharp claws which allow them to dig large underground burrows. They can dig burrows up to 6 feet deep and 20 feet wide. Their burrows often have multiple exits in case the animals need to escape from predators.

Groundhogs have excellent swimming and climbing capabilities. They usually climb when escaping a threat or checking out their surroundings. Groundhogs prefer to live in open areas and the edges of woodlands. A groundhog is also known as a whistle-pig. The name whistle-pig comes from the high-pitched scream let out to warn other groundhogs when danger is around.

Groundhogs can live up to eight years old. They usually weigh between nine and fifteen pounds. Groundhogs are often hunted by foxes, wolves, bobcats, raccoons, coyotes, bears, and eagles.

Groundhogs eat grass, berries, nuts, and crops. Their impressive digging skills can be used to help farmers.

The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club is composed of an 'Inner Circle' of fifteen members. Their official uniform is a tux and top hat. The Groundhog Club's Inner Circle is a group of local high ranking members responsible for carrying on the tradition of Groundhog Day every year. They are responsible for planning the event and selecting the "Inner Circle."

Members of the club have fun titles such as "Fairweatherman," "Thunder Conductor" and "Chief Hibernian." The "Inner Circle" is one of only three Inner Circle members that are allowed to hold Punxsutawney Phil.



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