

Groundhog's Day Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Groundhog's Day occurs every February 2nd in the United States. According to tradition, when a groundhog comes out of its burrow on this day and sees that it is cloudy, spring will come early. If the groundhog comes out of its burrow and it is sunny, and thus sees its shadow, winter will persist for six more weeks and the groundhog will return to its burrow.

While Groundhog's Day may have first been celebrated in Pennsylvania Dutch country in the early 1800s, it was first celebrated as a holiday in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, in 1886. The following year, the town crowned "Phil" as the official groundhog of Groundhog's Day. Phil would henceforth be known as Punxsutawney Phil. There have been many "Phils" over the years, but according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club website, Phil is 131 years old and counting! He has been able to live so long because he drinks a special formula called "Groundhog's Punch."

You might think that such a special rodent would have special prediction abilities. According to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, this is not the case. Phil's recorded predictions over the years have only yielded an accuracy rate of about 39%. Furthermore, in the 103 years in which Phil's predictions have been recorded, he has only predicted the coming of an early spring 17 times! Phil's poor predictive abilities, however, have not seemed to impact the importance of Groundhog's Day. Thousands of people descend upon Punxsutawney every February to help the city celebrate.

1. According to tradition, winter will last six more weeks if...

- A. Phil sees that it is cloudy and does not see his shadow.
- B. Phil sees that it is cloudy and sees his shadow.
- C. Phil sees that it is sunny and does not see his shadow.
- D. Phil sees that it is sunny and sees his shadow.

2. How many “Phils” have served as Punxsutawney Phil over the years?

- A. One
- B. 103
- C. 17
- D. The passage doesn’t tell

3. Which of the following IS NOT true about Groundhog’s Day?

- A. It originated in Pennsylvania Dutch country
- B. It was first celebrated in Punxsutawney in 1886
- C. It is celebrated each year in February
- D. Phil’s Groundhog’s Day predictions are usually correct

4. What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- A. What’s in Groundhog’s Punch?
- B. How many “Phils” have there been over the years?
- C. When was the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club founded?
- D. When did Punxsutawney crown Phil as the official groundhog?

5. Phil usually...

- A. predicts six more weeks of winter.
- B. predicts an early spring.
- C. predicts correctly.
- D. sees that it is cloudy and returns to his burrow.

6. What has the same meaning as “henceforth” in the following sentence?

Phil would henceforth be known as Punxsutawney Phil.

- A. sometimes
- B. occasionally
- C. from this point on
- D. interestingly

7. Which of the following is an example of hyperbole?

- A. Thousands of people visit Punxsutawney each year to help celebrate Groundhog’s Day
- B. Phil has only predicted an early spring 17 times
- C. Phil is 131 years old and counting
- D. Phil does not really have prediction abilities