

Ground Hog Day

Vocabulary

to hibernate (verb)- to sleep through the winter

hibernation (noun)- comes from hibernate (long sleep through the winter)

legend- old story that is told from parents to children, and children's children, and so on for many, many years

shadow- darkness made where the light can't go through (when the sun shines you can see the dark outline of your body on the ground)



Story

A ground hog is a _____ animal that digs and lives under the ground. It is also called the _____. Ground hogs live in many parts of America. In the winter they hibernate like bears and some other animals.

There is a legend that says a few _____ years ago Europeans brought Ground Hog Day to America. They said that the ground hog wakes up from his hibernation on February 2. (February 2 is half way between winter and _____.) If he comes up from his hole and it is sunny, he will see his shadow and be frightened. If he sees his shadow, there will be _____ more weeks of winter weather. But if he comes up and the sky is cloudy, he will not see his shadow and will not be frightened. Then spring weather will come very soon.

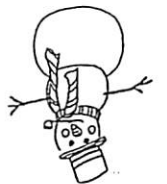
Some people believe this _____ and they watch the sky on February 2. Many people are happy if it is cloudy on that day. They think spring will come soon. But most people think it is just a fun legend. What do you think?

six	legend	spring	small	hundred	woodchuck
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1. Another name for groundhog is _____. (fox, squirrel, woodchuck)
2. Groundhog Day is February _____. It's when the groundhog wakes up. (14th, 2nd, 22nd)
3. The groundhog comes up from his _____. (nest, hole, cave)
4. The groundhog is looking for its _____. (mother, food, shadow)
5. If it sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of _____. (spring, winter, fall)

Snowy Winter

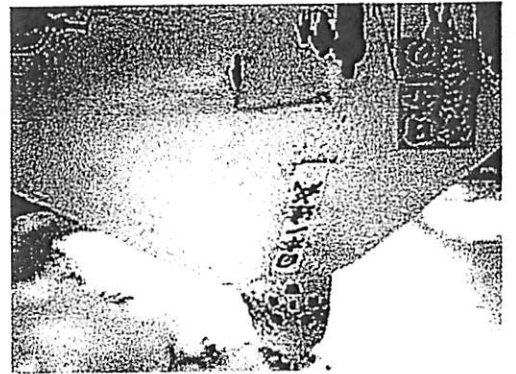
November-February



In winter temperatures drop and people hibernate in their homes when they aren't Christmas shopping or enjoying winter sports. The wind chill often makes it feel even colder than it is! Although winter is from November to February, it isn't unusual for a cold snap to occur as early as October, or as late as March in some countries.

Snow is a lot of fun to play in or have a snow ball fight with. One of the most popular snowy activities is to build a snowman.

Recently in Aomori prefecture this snowman was built at a whopping 31 meters tall. The snowman's face was made from local foods, including rice, apples and radishes.



This year a city in New York State, Buffalo, recently experienced a blizzard of 228.6 cm of snow. In three days over 2.4 meters of snow fell, causing some homes to be destroyed.

Winter isn't all snow and ice though. It is also a season for winter sports, hot foods and

spending time with friends and family. Many people like to nestle by a warm fire to stay warm. In Japan people enjoy sharing nabe under a hot kotatsu



What is your favorite thing to do in winter?

What do you enjoy eating in winter?

