

Groundhog Day



History of Groundhog Day

groundhog day



Groundhog day



❖ Groundhog Day is a holiday celebrated on February 2. It is held in the United States, Canada and some other countries. According to folklore, if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day fails to see its shadow, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter will soon end. If on the other hand, the groundhog sees its shadow, the groundhog will supposedly retreat into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks.

Groundhog Day

- ❖ Pennsylvania's official celebration of Groundhog Day began on February 2nd, 1886. The groundhog was given the name "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators."

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❖ The groundhog (or woodchuck, *Marmota monax*) is a member of the squirrel family. Groundhogs in the wild eat succulent green plants, such as dandelion, clover, and grasses.

❖ Groundhog Phil weighs 15

groundhog day origins



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❖ The holiday, which began in Pennsylvania in the 18th-19th centuries, has its origins in ancient European traditions. The holiday has some similarities to the medieval Catholic holiday of Candlemas. It also has similarities

groundhog day origins



❖ Along the way, February 2 also became associated with weather prediction, perhaps due to its proximity to the pagan Celtic festival of Imbolc—also a time of weather prediction—which falls on February 1. This date is at the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.

groundhog day origins



Superstition held that if the sun came out February 2, halfway between Winter and Spring, it meant six more weeks of wintry weather. If the sun made an appearance on February 2, an animal would cast a shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of Winter. Germans watched a badger for the shadow.

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