

# GROUNDHOG DAY

## Lesson

Groundhog Day is on February 2. We wait to see if the official groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, will see his shadow when he comes out of the ground in Pennsylvania. If he sees his shadow, that indicates that we are to expect 6 more weeks of winter. If his shadow does not appear, spring is supposedly on its way. However, this is only a myth, as the groundhog's "prediction" is only right about 39% of the time ([www.stormfax.com](http://www.stormfax.com)).



## Arts & Crafts

Materials: Flashlight, white or black construction paper, pencil, crayons or markers, tape, white chalk

Teach your child about how shadows are made. Go in a dark room, and tape a piece of white construction paper to the wall. Shine a bright flashlight on the paper. Create a silhouette of something on the paper, such as the child's head or a stuffed animal by tracing around the shadow. Remove the paper from the wall and let your child decorate it. You can also trace your child's silhouette onto black construction paper using white chalk, cut out, and laminate as a keepsake.



## Snack Time

For a more nutritious snack, serve lettuce with dressing, explaining that groundhogs eat greenery as a healthful snack. Or, crumble graham crackers over a cup of chocolate pudding. Insert a popsicle stick with a groundhog picture glued to it to make it look like a groundhog coming out of his hole!

## Activity & Games

If it is sunny, you can go outside and play shadow tag- whomever is "it" tries to make his or her shadow tag the others' shadows.

## Reading Time

- Groundhog Day!, by Gail Gibbons
- Go To Sleep, Groundhog!, by Judy Cox
- Groundhog Gets A Say, by Pamela Curtis Swallow

