



DIGITAL & PRINTABLE

4th & 5th Grade

GROUNDHOG BUNDLE



Seasonal/Holiday

PUNXSUTAWNEY GROUNDHOG DAY



VIRTUAL field trip

4th & 5th Grade

Vocabulary Review



Spot the Groundhog Escape Room



PRINTABLE • GOOGLE • WEBSCAPE™

4th & 5th Grade



Spot the Groundhog Escape Room



PRINTABLE • GOOGLE • WEBSCAPE™

4 Reading Challenges



Challenge #1



2

Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is celebrated every year on February 2nd. On this day, a groundhog becomes an esteemed meteorologist. People consider the famous groundhog to be skilled in predicting how many more weeks of winter there will be. The belief is that if the groundhog sees its shadow when it comes out of its burrow on this day, it gets frightened. The fear comes from the fact that groundhogs are winter hibernators. Sunshine causing a shadow would mean the groundhog should still be hibernating. The groundhog, therefore, pops back into its burrow, signaling six more weeks of winter weather. If the groundhog does *not* see its shadow, an early spring is supposedly on the way.



The Christian tradition of Candlemas in Europe may have given Groundhog Day its roots. Candlemas was a time when the clergy would bless and light candles. These candles would illuminate the darkness of a long and cold winter. It was said that if the candles were seen on Candlemas – which was on February 2nd – more cold weather was ahead. The custom was added to this custom by choosing a hedgehog as a weather predictor. If the hedgehog cast a shadow, it would snow all the way to May. When Germans immigrated to America and settled in



4. Read the sentence from the passage.

On this day, a groundhog becomes an esteemed meteorologist.

- What is the meaning of the underlined word in the sentence?
- a. intelligent
 - b. educated
 - c. respected
 - d. friendly

5. What event(s) initiated the switch from Candlemas to Groundhog Day?

- a. The extinction of hedgehogs led to the celebration of Groundhog Day instead of Candlemas.
- b. Candlemas became Groundhog Day when Germans moved to America and brought the celebration with them.
- c. Frequent snow in May caused people to celebrate Groundhog Day instead of Candlemas.
- d. Candlemas became Groundhog Day when the Hedgehog Club was renamed the Groundhog Club.

6. Read the sentence from the passage.

People still congregate on Gobbler's Knob each February 2nd to hear Punxsutawney Phil's prediction.

- Which of the following words is a synonym for the underlined word in the sentence?
- a. congressional
 - b. gather
 - c. celebrate
 - d. generate

4 Reading Challenges

Challenge #3

1. Read the passage and answer the vocabulary questions.
2. Use your answers to answer the world's greatest vocabulary questions.
3. After the challenge, use the clue in your answers to find the groundhog.

Are the Groundhog's Predictions Accurate?

Punxsutawney Phil, a groundhog, has been forecasting weather since 1887. Every February 2nd, Phil's prediction skills are requested. If he sees his shadow after departing his burrow in the ground, winter still has six more weeks of cold and potentially snowy weather. If he doesn't see his shadow, spring is in close proximity. Just how accurate are these predictions from this Pennsylvania rodent?

Let's just say you could flip a coin and accurately predict whether it would land on heads or tails more than Phil has been right about the weather!

Punxsutawney Phil's predictions over the years have been in keeping with actual weather data. According to *Almanac*, the famous groundhog has only been correct 39% of the time. After 1969 when weather improved, Phil's accuracy dropped to an even lower 34%. Guessing a coin toss has a 50% accuracy rate.



Scan the QR code or click [here](#) to view the video.



3 Versions

Groundhog

1

One of the largest ground squirrels is the groundhog. It belongs to the rodent family. They are about 17 to 24 inches long and weigh about 10 to 15 pounds. Groundhogs have tails that can be 7 to 10 inches long. Their fur is in color from brown to black. Long whiskers assist groundhogs in finding their way in the ground. These sharp claws are used to dig burrows in the ground. They use these to bite through vegetation and gnaw through roots. In the winter, when it is cold and the ground is frozen, the incisors grow about a sixteenth of an inch each month. Groundhogs must constantly chew on leaves, tree bark, and other plant material to keep their teeth from growing too large and not getting out of control.

Groundhogs make their homes in North America. They live in lands from Canada down to the southern United States. Groundhogs prefer to live in the ground where they make in the ground deep. They keep these materials they use in the ground anywhere from 2 to 3 feet deep. In the spring/summer burrows are used in the woods for hibernation.

Are the Groundhog's Predictions Accurate?

Punxsutawney Phil, a groundhog, has been forecasting weather since 1887. Every February 2nd, Phil's prediction skills are requested. If he sees his shadow after departing his burrow in the ground, winter still has six more weeks of cold and potentially snowy weather. If he doesn't see his shadow, spring is in close proximity. Just how accurate are these predictions from this Pennsylvania rodent?

Let's just say you could flip a coin and accurately predict whether it would land on heads or tails more than Phil has been right about the weather!

Punxsutawney Phil's predictions over the years haven't always been in keeping with actual weather data. According to *Stormfax Almanac*, the famous groundhog has only been correct about his winter forecast 39% of the time. After 1969 when weather data collection improved, Phil's accuracy dropped to an even lower 36%.

Guessing a coin toss has a 50% accuracy rate. You can clearly recognize that that's better than Phil's score. Let's cut Phil a break, though. We can only analyze the times he's foretold of an early spring. When he didn't observe his shadow, his forecast was correct 47% of the time. That's a huge improvement! What actual, human meteorologists strive for in their forecasts, however, is 60% accuracy.



Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is celebrated every year on February 2nd. On this day, a groundhog becomes an esteemed meteorologist. People consider the famous groundhog to be skilled in predicting how many more weeks of winter there will be. The belief is that if the groundhog sees its shadow when it comes out of its burrow on this day, it gets frightened. The fear comes from the fact that groundhogs are winter



4. Read the sentence from the passage.

On this day, a groundhog becomes an esteemed meteorologist.

What is the meaning of the underlined word in the sentence?




intelligent

educated

respected

friendly

3 Versions

	PDF 	Google Slides 	Webscape™ 
Format Type	Printable	Digital	Digital
Device	N/A	Any Device	Any Device
Required Prep	Print & Go	Copy & Share	Zero Prep
Student Answers	Printable Answer Pamphlet	Google Sheets Decoder Tool	Integrated Challenge Hub
Self Correcting	Includes Answer Key	Self Correcting	Self Correcting
Custom Videos	QR Codes	Embedded You Tube	Embedded
Audio Readings	N/A	No Audio Readings	Contains Audio Readings
Navigation	N/A	Student Directed	Automatically Advancing
Extras	Early Finish Challenges	Movable Pieces	Interactive Animation

6 MORE
WEEKS OF
WINTER

The Diligent Detective's Decoder

Use the following codes for each challenge to collect your clue and move to the next challenge.

Challenge 1

Question 1
a = The
b = Just
c = Where
d = In

Question 2
a = people
b = the
c = hound
d = where

Question 3
a = the
b = helped
c = around
d = dog

Question 4
a = over
b = deep
c = was
d = near

Question 5
a = the
b = so
c = their
d = where

Question 6
a = groundhog
b = helpful
c = close
d = amazing

Challenge 2

Question 1
a = By
b = Well,
c = I
d = They

Question 2
a = noticed
b = all
c = the
d = we

Question 3
a = over
b = of
c = rose
d = detectives

Question 4
a = to
b = tricks
c = clear
d = were

Question 5
a = the
b = interesting
c = really
d = well

Question 6
a = compose
b = obse

After each challenge, cut out a new clue and paste it in this journal. These clues will lead you straight to the groundhog!

clues

CONFIDENTIAL

CLUE #1:
Groundhog footprints
located at coordinates
40.9437° N, 78.9709° W
at 10:43 A.M.

CLUE #2:
Witness noticed a large
groundhog burrow while
hiking on Ferryview Trail
at 6:47 A.M. this morning.

CLUE #3:
Wildlife photographer's map and granola
bar went missing while she was peering
through her lens, searching for the
groundhog. Map was found 20 feet
away, ripped and bitten by groundhog
teeth. Wrapper found 1 yard away,
completely empty. No crumbs in sight.

CLUE #4:
Movement detected by
satellite via infrared
sensors. Confirmed
groundhog sighting!
Finally!

WELCOME
SPRING!

CHALLENGE 3

SPOT THE
GROUNDHOG
RECORDING
BROCHURE



Record
your
challenge
answers
during
your
mission.

	Answer	Code
1.	C	They
2.	B	knew
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

What did the
photographers
contribute to the
search?

Print

You Spotted The Groundhog!

Jessica J.

(Name)

has successfully completed the c
and found the groundhog



~Punxsu



Oops!

You dropped your glasses in the groundhog's burrow!



NO USING YOUR EYES FOR 5
MINUTES!



Print


Webscape™



Challenge #1

Click on the book to read the text, then click on each clue and answer the questions. Answer carefully, because the right answers will give you the clues to solve the challenge!

What animal tracker proved to be the most helpful to you?



Text

The

hound

dog

was

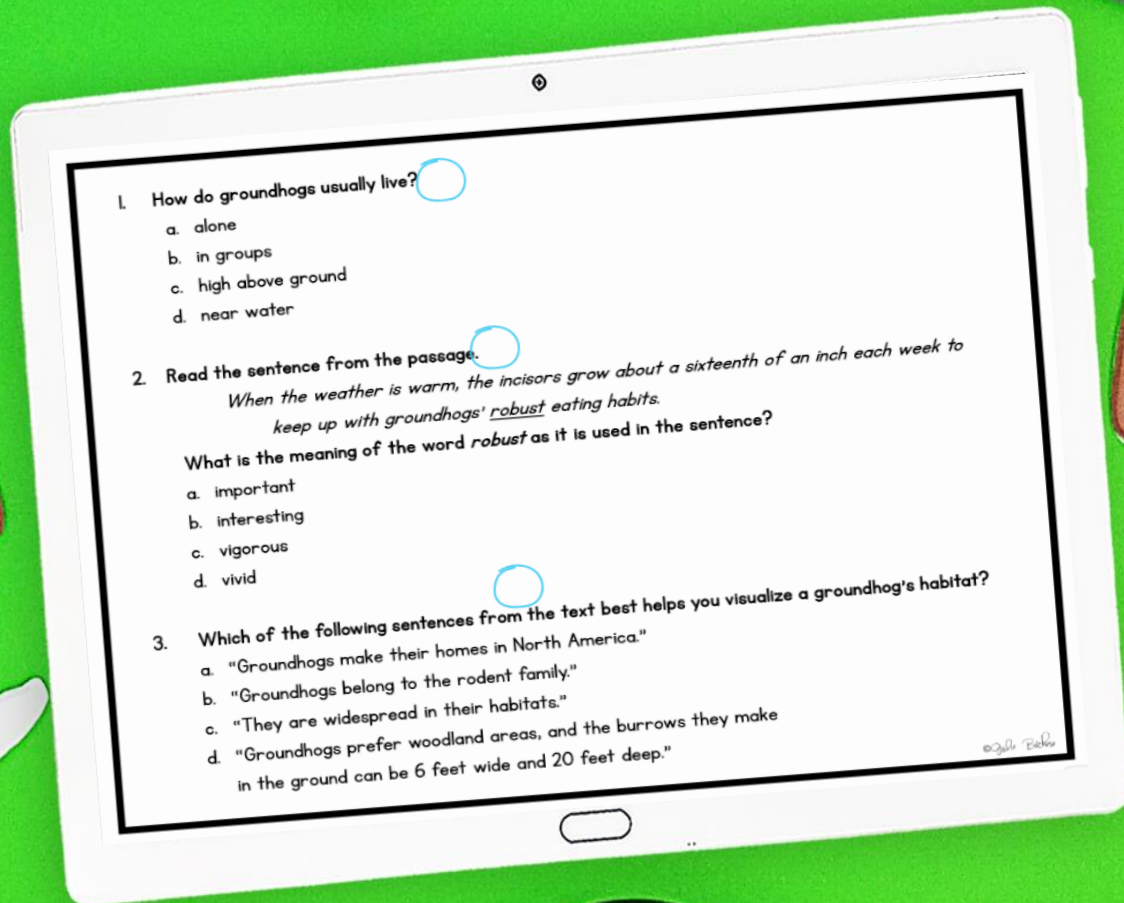
Clue #5

Clue #6

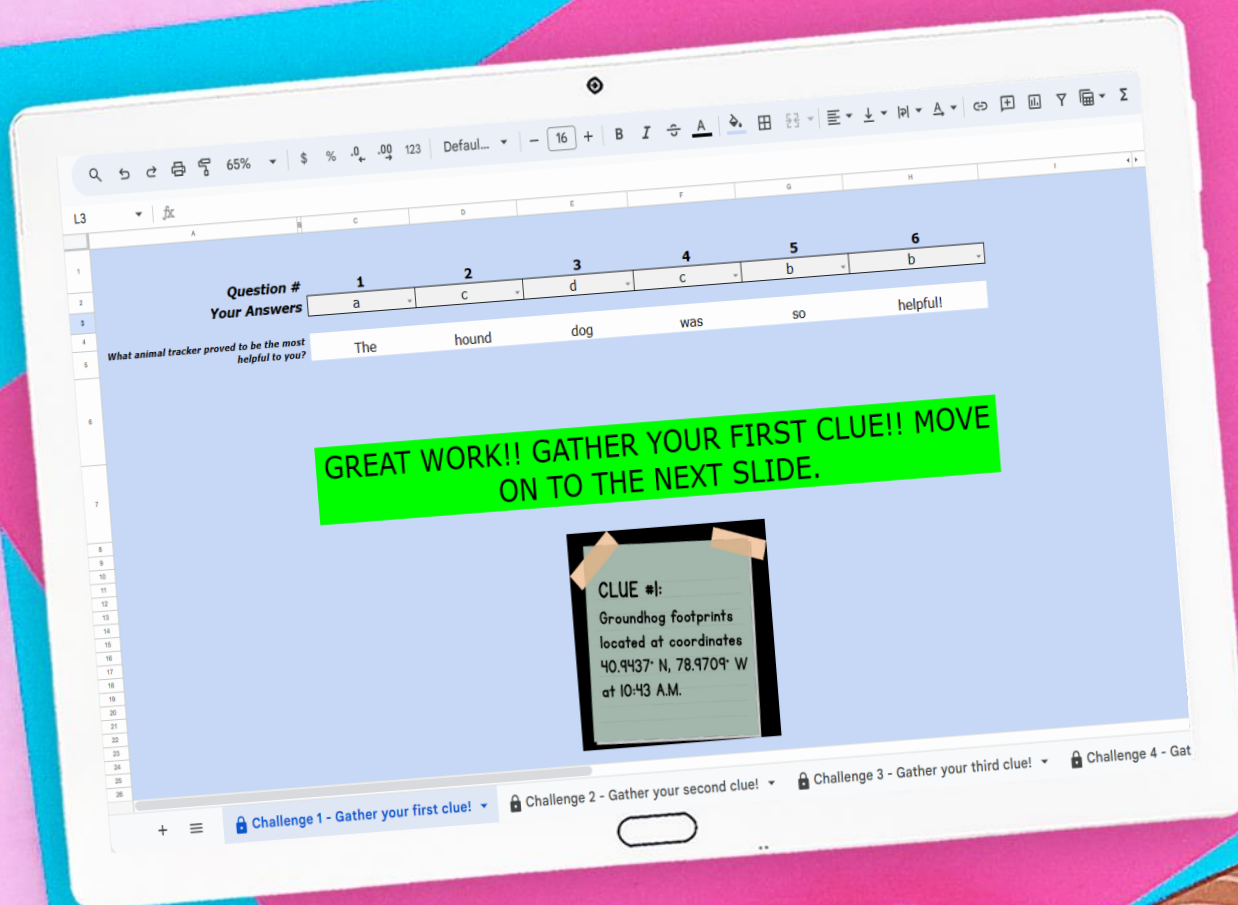


Webscape™





Google Slides



Google Slides

Seasonal/Holiday

PUNXSUTAWNEY GROUNDHOG DAY



VIRTUAL field trip

SOCIAL STUDIES

Let's Travel!: Pennsylvania



Describe Pennsylvania's importance in the history of the United States of America.



©2014 Bobo

INTEGRATES READING

Let's Explore!: What is Groundhog Day?

Groundhog Day is celebrated each year on February 2nd. On this day people rely on the groundhog to predict the weather for the next six weeks. According to folklore, if the groundhog comes out of his burrow on this day and sees his shadow there will be winter for six more weeks. However, if he does not see his shadow, then spring will come early.

This celebration is popular in North America. The tradition of Groundhog Day came from German settlers. In 1886, a Pennsylvania newspaper declared February 2nd as Groundhog Day, naming the local groundhog as Punxsutawney Phil. Since then the day and tradition has spread throughout the United States, but the largest celebration takes place in Punxsutawney, PA each year.



Highlight in the passage where the answers to the questions below can be found.

1. When is Groundhog Day celebrated?
2. What does the holiday predict?
3. Where does the largest Groundhog Day celebration take place?
4. Who started the holiday tradition?

©2011 Scholastic

SCIENCE:

Let's Explore: What are shadows?

1. Name three different sources of light.

2. What are the 7 different colors that we see light in?

3. What makes a shadow?

4. Why are shadows different shapes?



©2018 Bala

Following the Sun

Watch the video to learn more about how shadows can change throughout the day.



Explain how the sun's position in the sky relates to the shape, size, and direction of a shadow.



ENGAGING &
EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

MAKE PREDICTIONS AND WATCH THE FOOTAGE

Let's Predict!

Do you think Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow this year? Knowing the weather might help you make an accurate prediction. Click the photo to view the current weather forecast in the city. Then, make your prediction below.

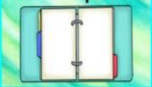


I predict...

Six more
weeks of
Winter

Explain your prediction. Why do you think there will be an early Spring or longer Winter?

To Scrapbook



©2018 Betsy

