



Groundhog Day

Legend has it that if the groundhog comes out of his burrow and sees his shadow (because the day is bright and sunny), he will get frightened and run back in his burrow, bringing six more weeks of winter. If the groundhog comes out of his burrow and does not see his shadow (because the day is cloudy and overcast), he will stay outside and we will have an early spring!

February 2nd happens to be the day that winter is half over; it is half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox

Make a Paper Bag Groundhog!

Lightly stuff a paper bag with newspaper. Tape or staple the bag shut. Mold it with your hands to give it a roundish "groundhog" shape. Use markers to put eyes, nose, ears, and mouth on the paper groundhog. Give the illusion of fur by making streaks with a brown marker all over the bag. Get fancy by attaching pipe cleaners for whiskers. Use your imagination to create other features. Have fun!

Groundhog Hunt!

Once you've made a groundhog, hide him in a "burrow" somewhere in the house and play a game of find the groundhog. You can use a stopwatch, digital or analog clock and time how long it takes to find the groundhog.

Make your own Groundhog Burrow!

Get a big cardboard box. Make sure it's big enough so that you and your child can crawl in and out of it easily. Decorate it to resemble a burrow. Use markers, paint, or contact paper. Pretend you are groundhogs and crawl in and out of your burrow!

Fun with Shadows!

Turn off the lights and shine a flashlight on a wall. Stand in front of the light and experiment with making shadows of all shapes and sizes. Experiment with casting different shadows by holding different objects up in front of the flashlight.

Trace a Shadow!

Tape large sheets of paper to the wall. Have one person hold the flashlight while your child stands in front of it -- casting their shadow onto the paper on the wall. Trace your child's shadow. You can then cut it out and paint it black.

I See a Little Groundhog

tune of I'm a Little Teapot

I see a little groundhog, furry and brown,
He's popping up to look around.
If he sees his shadow, down he'll go.
Six more weeks of winter - oh, no!

