



Groundhog Day

This week we have been learning about groundhogs. We have learned that they hibernate underground. We have learned that folklore says they will come out on February 2nd to predict the rest of the winter's weather. Today we'll use our engineering skills to design and create a groundhog and his burrow.

Challenge:

You need to design and create a groundhog and his home using the materials provided by your teacher.

Criteria:

Your groundhog must:

- Have a home / burrow
- Have a lever to help it move in and out of it's burrow on February 2nd

Materials:

You may use all or some of the materials listed below.

- Construction paper
- Glue
- Brads
- Other materials provided by the teacher

Tools:

You may only use the tools listed below.

- Scissors
- Markers
- Crayons
- Glue sticks

Time frame: 1 or 2 class periods

Kindergarten

Virginia Standards of Learning:

History K.1 February Holidays • Science K.1 Science Investigation, K.9 Habitats • Lang Arts K.2 Use listening and speaking vocabularies, K. 3 Build oral communications

Books about groundhogs:

Groundhog Day!

by Gail Gibbons, Gail Gibbons (Illustrator)
ISBN-13: 9780823421169

Children's Literature : Either "Six more weeks of winter!" or the promise of "an early spring," is the prediction people anticipate hearing on February 2 — Groundhog Day. The "Queen of Explanatory Books," Gail Gibbons, has given us the definitive Groundhog's Day book for young people. In this accessible picture book, Gibbons presents the history of the custom of observing the actions of groundhogs as they emerge from their burrows (willingly or not) on Feb. 2 and a brief look at their natural history.

Substitute Groundhog

by Pat Miller, Kathi Ember (Illustrator)
Pub. Date: September 2006
ISBN-13: 9780807576434

School Library Journal: K-Gr 3-This whimsical story is sure to please. Groundhog comes down with the flu just before his big day, so he has to hold auditions for substitute weather tellers. As the local animals show up, he is forced to get more and more specific in his requirements—for instance, Bear is able to fit into Groundhog's hole, but he snoozes instead of checking his shadow. The animal that finally fills the bill is a surprising choice that will give readers a chuckle. Ember's warm illustrations alternate between single-page drawings, spreads, and spot art, making the book as cozy as Groundhog's home. The pictures add much life to the various animals as well as to the humor of the search. In the end, Groundhog is forced to think about what makes him perfect for the job, and his wise appointment of a substitute results in an unlikely friend.—Susan E. Murray, Glendale Public Library, AZ Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

Groundhog Stays Up Late

by Margery Cuyler, Jean Cassels (Illustrator)
Pub. Date: December 2007
ISBN-13: 9780802797322

Kirkus Reviews: In a twist on the classic tale of the Grasshopper and the Ants, Groundhog must find a way to get his hibernating friends to share their food stores with him after he has played away the fall and early winter. On Jan. 2nd, he climbs to the top of the hill where the sun is shining and the snow is melting, and proclaims that spring has come early. His friends all emerge and feast—until snowflakes start to swirl around them and Squirrel realizes what Groundhog has done. In retaliation, his friends decide to trick him. When he emerges from hibernation on Feb. 2nd, he sees his "shadow" and goes back to sleep, not realizing that spring has already arrived. Cassels's gouache paintings are remarkably detailed and lifelike—blades of grass, tree bark and the hairs on each animal's coat of fur all stand out with amazing clarity. At the same time, she has given the characters the anthropomorphic qualities that will help them appeal to the youngest readers—a brilliant balance that make the illustrations truly memorable. Great for a read-aloud in classrooms. (Picture book. 3-8)

Gretchen Groundhog, It's Your Day!

by Abby Levine, Nancy Cote (Illustrator), Nancy Cote (Illustrator)
Pub. Date: September 2002
ISBN-13: 9780807530597

Children's Literature: This truly American story tells the tale of Gretchen the Groundhog as she faces and conquers one of our greatest fears—public speaking. All of the townsfolk of Piccadilly are counting on Gretchen to carry on the tradition of coming out of her burrow on February 2 to predict whether winter will continue for six more weeks or not. Her Great-Uncle Gus is too old to "Go Out," but Gretchen is afraid of the TV crews, the newspaper reporters, and the crowds and is determined to stay tucked in her private space. It isn't until the town historian's daughter shows the little groundhog how her forebears faced and conquered similar fears that she decides to "Go Out." This book is a unique rendering of the Groundhog Day story, with contemporary treatment. The warm, gentle illustrations are sparked by humorous touches such as the "Ode to the West Wind" hanging over the mantelpiece and the book Gretchen is reading, *Down Under*.

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