

The meaning of Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day occurs every second day in February, when we observe the emergence of this rodent and how its shadow gets cast, to determine likely weather ahead.

It has roots in the celebration of candlemas (distribution of candles at mass for cold nights, marking a midpoint between solstice and the equinox of spring), although settlers from Germany importing the tradition were obliged to switch a groundhog for the European badger or hedgehog. Generally speaking, clear weather that creates shading visible to the animal suggests many more chilly, rough days ahead (a "second winter"). A cloudy sky and absence of shadow presages the converse.



TIME

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"Chucky" enjoys a pretzel with his mistress, Mrs. L. G. Lessig. He is also very fond of beer

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