Presentation on the topic «Groundhog Day»

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Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is a holiday celebrated on February 2 in the United States and Canada. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter will soon end. If it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks.

History of Groundhog Day

Farmers began predicting that if the weather was sunny on Candlemas, they could expect six more weeks of bad weather. The tradition made its way to Germany, where the people decided that if a hedgehog were to see its shadow on Candlemas, they could expect a longer winter.

Pennsylvania Tradition

In the 1700s, when Germans began settling in Pennsylvania, they brought this European tradition with them. Since groundhogs were plentiful and resembled the hedgehogs they had known in Europe, the settlers decided that the groundhog would be the perfect weather forecaster to take up the tradition. In 1886, the first recorded prediction "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary" was published in "The Punxsutawney Spirit" newspaper. This event also marked the first official Groundhog Day celebration.

Fun Facts

Phil has his own set of handlers, who state that he weighs 15 pounds and subsists on a diet of dog food and ice cream. He spends most of the year living in a climate-controlled environment at the Punxsutawney Library. When it is time for him to make his prediction on the stage at Gobbler's Knob, his handlers place him in a heated burrow beneath an artificial tree stump. At 7:25 a.m., he is pulled from the burrow to make his prediction.

Effects

Since spring officially begins on March 21 each year, six weeks of winter always remain after Groundhog Day, regardless of which prediction is made by Punxsutawney Phil. However, Punxsutawney enjoys a fine tourist trade, so it really doesn't matter whether the "Weather Prophet Extraordinary" is correct with his forecast: the event itself provides the appeal.

Mr. Groundhog's Shadow

A groundhog lives down deep in the ground.

He sleeps through the winter.

And every year about this time,

He wakes up and wonders,

"Is it time to get out of bed

Or pull the covers back over my head?"

So he pokes his head up out of the ground.

Will he see his shadow?

Comedy film «*Groundhog Day*» (1993)

Groundhog Day is a 1993 American comedy film directed by Harold Ramis, starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. It was written by Ramis and Danny Rubin, based on a story by Rubin.

Murray plays Phil Connors, an egocentric Pittsburgh TV weatherman who, during a hated assignment covering the annual Groundhog Day event in Punxsutawney, finds himself repeating the same day over and over again. After indulging in hedonism and numerous suicide attempts, he begins to reexamine his life and priorities. At first he is confused, but, when the phenomenon continues on subsequent days, he decides to take advantage of the situation with no fear of long-term consequences. He learns secrets, seduces women, steals money, drives recklessly, and gets thrown in jail. However, his attempts to get closer to Rita repeatedly fail.

Still from the film

Modern customs of the holiday involve celebrations where early morning festivals are held to watch the groundhog emerging from its burrow. For example, in southeastern Pennsylvania it is a big social event in which food is served, speeches are made.

Information taken from

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