

Theme: Groundhog Day

Date: February 2, 2021

Hello StrongStart friends,

Today's email is put together by Ms. Joni (from Waverely).

Groundhog Day is celebrated every year on February 2nd. It is believed that winter is extend for six weeks if the groundhog comes out of his burrow and see his shadow. However, if it's a cloudy day and the groundhog cannot see its shadow, then spring will come early!



Here's a fun little groundhog fact game you can ask your children (source: <https://kids.kiddle.co/Groundhog>). Read them the following three and ask them to choose the one that's not true (it's bolded)!

1. Groundhogs are also known as a woodchuck.
2. **Groundhogs are smaller than your pet cat.**
3. Groundhogs have thick fur and comes in many colours like dark brown, reddish and gray.

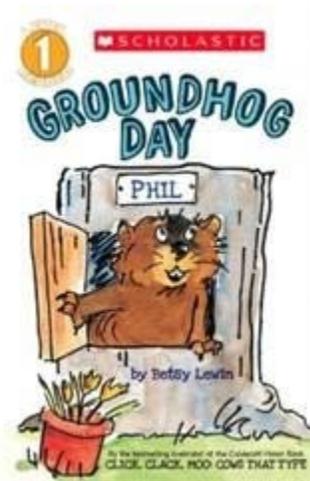


Here's a trickier set:

1. Groundhogs are vegetarians and enjoy fruits and vegetables.

2. Groundhogs are picky eaters, and they don't like insects and snails.
3. Groundhogs are digging rodents.

Now, let's listen to Ms. Joni read "Groundhog Day" by Betsy Lewin
- <https://youtu.be/36ilwc9Lrcc>



Here's the "Groundhog Song" by the Kiboomers you can sing at home - <https://youtu.be/oLO-LVxji7A>

*I'm a little groundhog, furry and brown.
I pop my head out of my hole and look around.
If I see my shadow, I'll go back down.
For six more weeks of winter underground.*

*I'm a little groundhog, furry and brown.
I pop my head out of my hold and look around.
If I don't see my shadow, I'll stay out here.
And enjoy an early spring this year!*

For our groundhog craft, we will be making it from a paper plate.

Materials: paper plate, green/black/brown paint or markers, scissors and glue.

Instructions:



1. Fold the paper plate in half. On the fold, trace the groundhog shape as shown in the first picture. Colour the other half of the plate like it's a green meadow!



2. Using the leftover paper plate, cut out the hands, ears, eyes, nose and teeth.

3. Assemble the groundhog. Take your craft outside and see if the groundhog can see its shadow!



Another activity involving shadows you can do requires either a flashlight or a sunny day! Give your child different objects and see what shadow it makes. Prompt your child with questions like "what happens if we move the light closer?" or "how can we make this shadow even bigger?" Encourage your child to make shadows with their body parts (e.g., hands and fingers or full body).



To finish this email, here's a coloring page you can do at home - <https://coloringhome.com/groundhog-pictures-to-print>



Vancouver Public Library has Facebook Live Storytimes, Babytime and Toddlertime on Zoom and Virtual Storytime on YouTube.

- **Toddlertime on**

Zoom: <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/events/search/q=Toddler%20Storytime%20on%20Zoom>

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VPLKidsGroup/permalink/305851480553261/>

- YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/vancouverlibrary

