

FACTS ABOUT GROUNDHOGS



Let's learn more about groundhogs!

Did you know groundhogs (or *Marmota monax*) are actually rodents and are solitary animals?

Groundhogs (also known as woodchucks) may look cute and cuddly, but they are actually rodents that are destructive because of their burrowing habits.

GROUNDHOGS ARE PART OF THE SQUIRREL FAMILY

- When living in the wild they can live anywhere from 3-6 years.
- They can weigh anywhere from 6-12 pounds.
- They are most active in the early morning hours when they go to gather food.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GROUNDHOGS

- Groundhogs have sharp claws that help them burrow into the ground and move through the dirt. Those burrows can be up to 66 feet long and are used for storing food, hibernating, and nesting.
- Usually, in the month of October they go into hibernation and don't emerge until late winter/early spring.
- Groundhogs are omnivores which means they eat herbivorous foods like garden plants, alfalfa, grasses, fruits, and vegetables.
- They whistle when they are scared.
- They are skilled climbers and swimmers which helps them get away from their predators.

On February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog is a star! People wait for him to come out of his burrow to see if he will see his shadow or not. Legend has it that if Phil sees his shadow, six more weeks of winter will follow but that prediction can be kind of iffy.

GROUNDHOG FACT WORKSHEET



Use reliable sources to research and answer the following questions:

WHY DO GROUNDHOGS BURROW TUNNELS UNDERGROUND?

WHERE ARE GROUNDHOGS FOUND?

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE A GROUNDHOG TO MATURE INTO AN ADULT?

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY GROUNDHOG DAMAGE?

DO YOU THINK A GROUNDHOG CAN PREDICT THE WEATHER?