

GROUNDHOG DAY

Purpose: Students will discuss what makes a shadow and the folklore associated with Groundhog Day.

Suggested Grade Level: PK - K

Science SOL: Interrelationships in Earth/Space Systems K.8

Equipment/Materials Needed: Attached pictures

Advance Preparation:

1. Print out pictures attached and spread out on floor with the pictures not showing.

Directions:

1. Ask students if they have ever heard of a groundhog or seen one. Briefly describe a groundhog and its habits and habitat.
2. Ask if they have ever heard of Groundhog's Day, and if so, what do they know about it? Discuss the folklore of the groundhog seeing its shadow (6 more weeks of winter) and not seeing his shadow (arrival of spring).
3. Discuss hibernation and name animals that hibernate.
4. Ask students what can cause the groundhog to see its shadow. Discuss what a shadow is and what can cause a shadow to be created.
5. Have students stand beside a picture that is turned over. Tell them to turn their pictures over and note whether their picture shows a groundhog with a shadow or a groundhog without a shadow. If their picture has a shadow, tell them that you want them assume the Yoga "Child's Pose to the count of 5. Demonstrate the pose and explain that it looks like a curled-up hibernating animal.



6. If the card has a picture of a groundhog that does not have a shadow, they should do 5 big jumps to celebrate the arrival of spring.
7. When they complete the activity associated with their first card, they should flip that card back over and then go to another card. Flip over that card and do the activity associated with that card. Students may flip over a shadow picture or a non-shadow picture several times in a row and this is all right.
8. As they do this, go around room helping the students and explaining the concepts associated with the lesson.
9. Continue until you are satisfied with their understanding of the concepts, or as time permits.

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