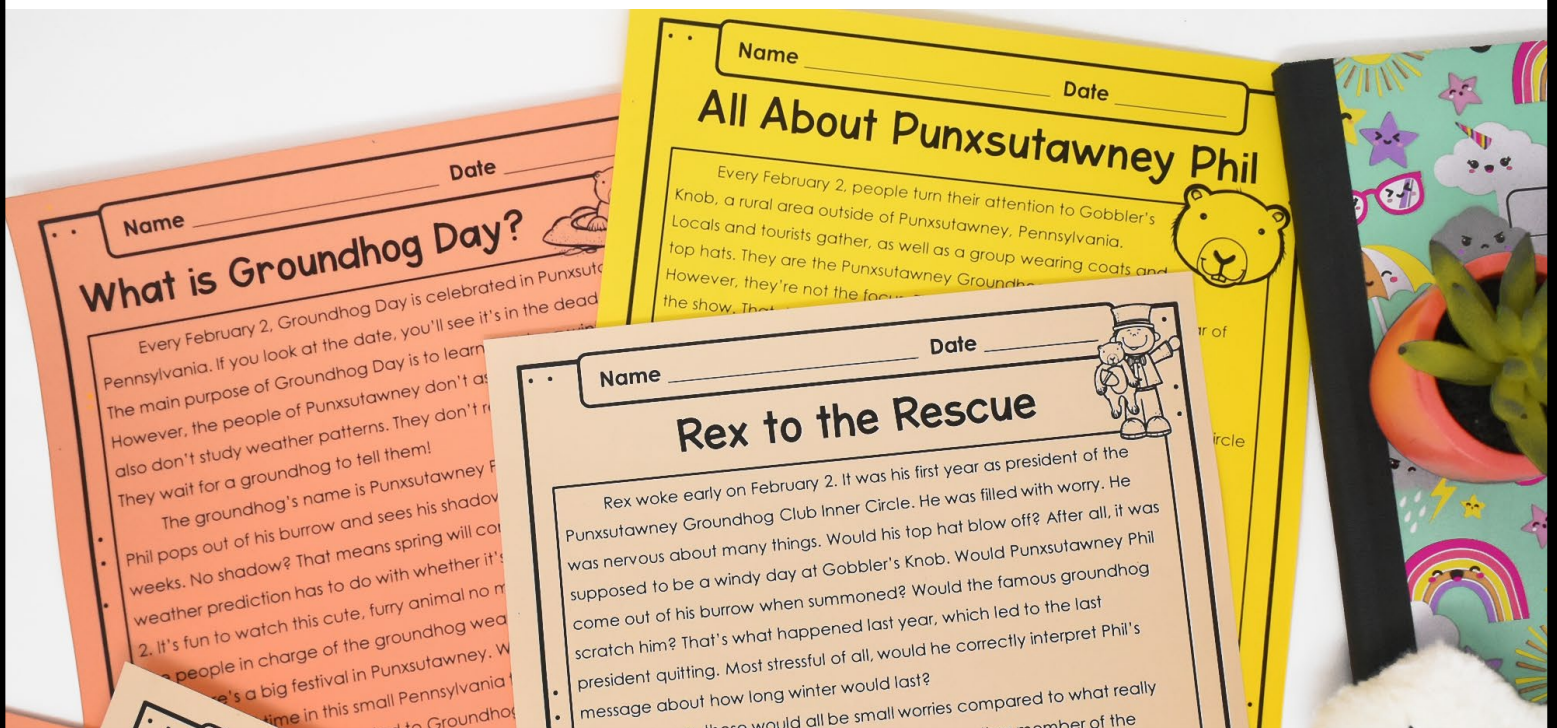


Digital Access Links on Pages 4-5

GROUNDHOG DAY Reading Comprehension 4TH & 5TH GRADE: 3 TEXTS



DIGITAL + PRINTABLE

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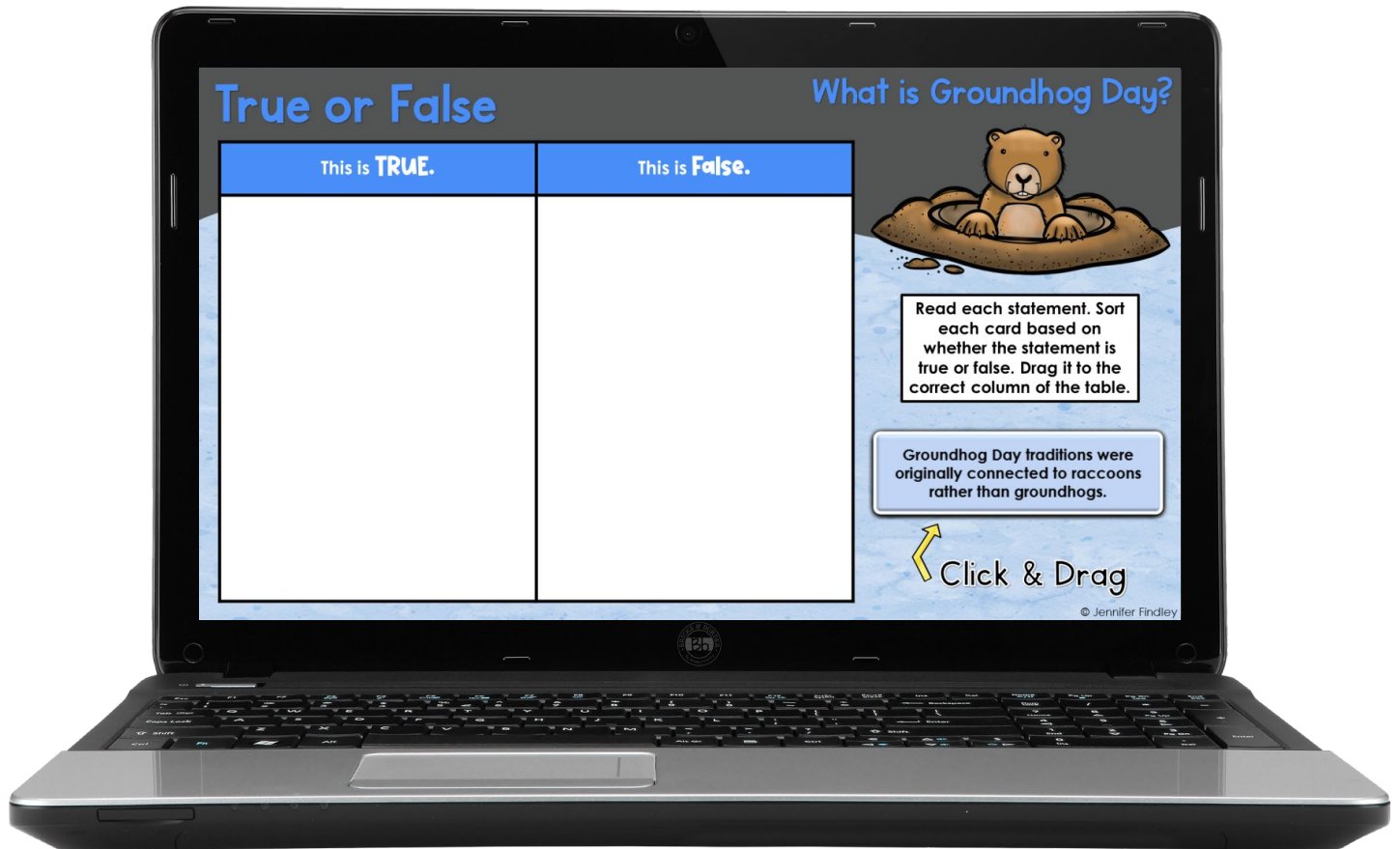
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**NONFICTION 1:
WHAT IS GROUNDHOG
DAY?**

Name _____ Date _____

What is Groundhog Day?



Every February 2, Groundhog Day is celebrated in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. If you look at the date, you'll see it's in the dead of winter. The main purpose of Groundhog Day is to learn how long winter will last. However, the people of Punxsutawney don't ask a meteorologist. They also don't study weather patterns. They don't research scientific texts. They wait for a groundhog to tell them!

The groundhog's name is Punxsutawney Phil. As the tradition goes, if Phil pops out of his burrow and sees his shadow, winter will last another six weeks. No shadow? That means spring will come early. Basically, this weather prediction has to do with whether it's sunny or not on February 2. It's fun to watch this cute, furry animal no matter what kind of day it is. The people in charge of the groundhog wear fancy coats and top hats, and there's a big festival in Punxsutawney. Whatever Phil reveals, people have a good time in this small Pennsylvania town.

The traditions connected to Groundhog Day were brought to the area in the 1800s by German immigrants. February 2 falls halfway between the darkest day of the year and the first day of spring. A group of Europeans called this day Candlemas. If the day was sunny, it was thought that forty more days of winter were coming. Germans adapted this to include the part about animal shadows. Back in Germany, it was mainly badgers. When they moved to Pennsylvania, they used a local critter. That was, of course, the groundhog. The first Groundhog Day festival was celebrated on February 2, 1887. It's been held every February 2 since.

Name _____ Date _____

What is Groundhog Day?

1. What does it mean if the groundhog in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania sees his shadow?
2. What does it mean if the groundhog in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania doesn't see his shadow?
3. What do the people in charge of the groundhog wear for the celebration?
4. What was the original name of the day halfway between the darkest day of the year and the first day of spring?



ANSWER KEY

What is Groundhog Day?

1. What does it mean if the groundhog in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania sees his shadow?

If the groundhog in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania sees his shadow, it means there will be six more weeks of winter.

2. What does it mean if the groundhog in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania doesn't see his shadow?

If the groundhog in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania doesn't see his shadow, it means there will be an early spring.

3. What do the people in charge of the groundhog wear for the celebration?

People in charge of the groundhog wear fancy coats and top hats.

4. What was the original name of the day halfway between the darkest day of the year and the first day of spring?

The original name of the day halfway between the darkest day of the year and the first day of spring was Candlemas.



Name _____ Date _____

True or False



Directions: Cut out and read each statement. Sort each card based on whether the statement is true or false.

This is TRUE.	This is False.



Groundhog Day is celebrated on the first Saturday in February.	A famous Groundhog Day celebration takes place each year in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.
The main purpose of Groundhog Day is to predict how long winter will last.	The groundhog in Punxsutawney is known as Punxsutawney Pete.
Groundhog Day traditions came from German immigrants.	Punxsutawney is a big city in Pennsylvania.
Groundhog Day traditions were originally connected to raccoons rather than groundhogs.	Groundhog Day has been celebrated since 1887.

What is Groundhog Day?

Name _____ Date _____

True or False



Directions: Cut out and read each statement. Sort each card based on whether the statement is true or false.

This is TRUE.	This is False.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A famous Groundhog Day celebration takes place each year in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.• The main purpose of Groundhog Day is to predict how long winter will last.• Groundhog Day traditions came from German immigrants.• Groundhog Day has been celebrated since 1887.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groundhog Day is celebrated on the first Saturday in February.• The groundhog in Punxsutawney is known as Punxsutawney Pete.• Punxsutawney is a big city in Pennsylvania.• Groundhog Day traditions were originally connected to raccoons rather than groundhogs.



Groundhog Day is celebrated on the first Saturday in February.	A famous Groundhog Day celebration takes place each year in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.
The main purpose of Groundhog Day is to predict how long winter will last.	The groundhog in Punxsutawney is known as Punxsutawney Pete.
Groundhog Day traditions came from German immigrants.	Punxsutawney is a big city in Pennsylvania.
Groundhog Day traditions were originally connected to raccoons rather than groundhogs.	Groundhog Day has been celebrated since 1887.

What is Groundhog Day?

Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea



Main Idea of the Text:

Write the main idea of each paragraph.

Paragraph	Main Idea
1	
2	
3	

ANSWER KEY

Main Idea



Main Idea of the Text:

Groundhog Day is a yearly celebration involving a furry animal and a prediction about when spring will arrive.

Write the main idea of each paragraph.

Paragraph	Main Idea
1	The purpose of Groundhog Day is to predict how long winter will last.
2	A big festival takes place in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania on Groundhog Day.
3	German immigrants brought Groundhog Day traditions to the United States.

NONFICTION 2:

ALL ABOUT

PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL

Name _____ Date _____

All About Punxsutawney Phil



Every February 2, people turn their attention to Gobbler's Knob, a rural area outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Locals and tourists gather, as well as a group wearing coats and top hats. They are the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle. However, they're not the focus. They're only there to manage the star of the show. That star is Punxsutawney Phil.

Punxsutawney Phil is a groundhog. He is also a famous weather predictor. If it's sunny and Phil sees his shadow, winter will be long. If he doesn't, it will be short. Here's how it plays out. A member of the Inner Circle taps on the tiny door of a little wooden house. Phil emerges and looks around. Phil tells the Inner Circle president what he saw. Then, the Inner Circle president tells the world!

According to other weather experts, Phil has only been right a little over 60 percent of the time. However, the Inner Circle says that there's a reason for that. See, Phil is always right. However, sometimes the Inner Circle misinterprets what Phil told them. Of course, Phil speaks a language called Groundhogese, so it makes sense that sometimes there would be confusion.

As the story goes, it's been the same Punxsutawney Phil since the first ceremony. That was on February 2, 1887. Yes, that's incredibly old for a groundhog! They usually only live to around fourteen. Every summer at a local picnic, Phil takes a sip of a special drink. It gives him seven extra years of life. Plus, other than these two events, Phil's life is stress-free. Every once in a while, he'll travel to meet a celebrity like Oprah or the president. Otherwise, he's just relaxing with his wife, Phyllis, at the Punxsutawney Public Library, where he lives.

Name _____ Date _____

All About Punxsutawney Phil

1. What is the name of the rural area outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania where the famous groundhog celebration takes place?
2. What do people say is the reason Punxsutawney Phil's predictions aren't always correct?
3. What do people say about how the same Punxsutawney Phil from 1887 can still be alive?
4. Where does Punxsutawney Phil usually live? Who lives with him?



ANSWER KEY

All About Punxsutawney Phil

1. What is the name of the rural area outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania where the famous groundhog celebration takes place?

The rural area outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania where the famous Groundhog Celebration takes place is called Gobbler's Knob.

2. What do people say is the reason Punxsutawney Phil's predictions aren't always correct?

People say the reason that Punxsutawney Phil's predictions aren't always correct is because the Inner Circle misunderstands Phil because he speaks Groundhogese rather than English.

3. What do people say about how the same Punxsutawney Phil from 1887 can still be alive?

They say that every summer, Phil sips a drink that extends his life by seven years. Also, he's able to live a long time because he doesn't have much stress.

4. Where does Punxsutawney Phil usually live? Who lives with him?

Punxsutawney Phil usually lives at the public library. He lives with Phyllis, his wife.



Name _____ Date _____

Using Context Clues



Using context clues from the text, determine the meanings of the words in the table.

Word	Context Clues	Definition
gather		
focus		
manage		
predictor		
emerges		
misinterprets		

ANSWER KEY

Using Context Clues

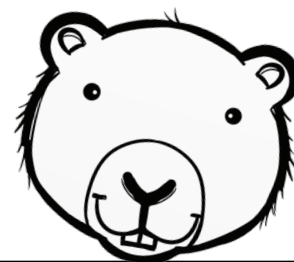


Using context clues from the text, determine the meanings of the words in the table.

Word	Context Clues	Definition
gather	Clues will vary.	to come together
focus	Clues will vary.	something that people are paying attention to
manage	Clues will vary.	to control or be in charge of someone or something
predictor	Clues will vary.	someone or something that says what will happen in the future
emerges	Clues will vary.	comes out of something or comes into view
misinterprets	Clues will vary.	incorrectly explains or understands something

Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea

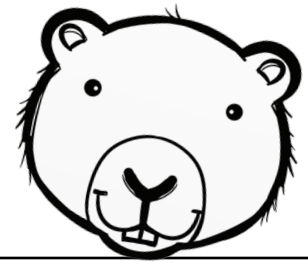


Write the main idea of each paragraph.

Paragraph	Main Idea
1	
2	
3	
4	

ANSWER KEY

Main Idea



Write the main idea of each paragraph.

Paragraph	Main Idea
1	A big Groundhog Day celebration takes place each year outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.
2	A Groundhog Day ceremony involving Punxsutawney Phil predicts how long winter will last.
3	Punxsutawney Phil is only correct around 60 percent of the time.
4	The story goes that the same Punxsutawney Phil has been alive since the first Groundhog Day celebration in 1887.

FICTION:
REX TO THE RESCUE

Name _____

Date _____



Rex to the Rescue

Rex woke early on February 2. It was his first year as president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle. He was filled with worry. He was nervous about many things. Would his top hat blow off? After all, it was supposed to be a windy day at Gobbler's Knob. Would Punxsutawney Phil come out of his burrow when summoned? Would the famous groundhog scratch him? That's what happened last year, which led to the last president quitting. Most stressful of all, would he correctly interpret Phil's message about how long winter would last?

However, these would all be small worries compared to what really happened. Rex's phone rang. It was Cherise, another member of the Groundhog Club. Punxsutawney Phil was missing! Cherise had gone to the public library, where Phil lived, to pick him up for the annual event. Phil was nowhere to be found! Right now, thousands of people were gathered at Gobbler's Knob, waiting to see if winter would be long or short.

Rex sped to the library to investigate. He found the door to Phil's enclosure open. He kept looking and found that a window in the library break room was also open. Rex raised the window higher and climbed out into the chilly morning air. He scanned the area, trying to put himself in Phil's shoes. Where would a groundhog go? Then he saw it. Workers were unloading produce at the back of the market. Rex hustled over and peered in the back door of the store. There was Phil! He was reclined in a crate of lettuce, munching away on a carrot.

"Time to go, my friend," Rex said, as he snatched up Punxsutawney Phil. "We can't have Groundhog Day without the star groundhog!"

Name _____ Date _____

Rex to the Rescue



1. Name four things that Rex is worried about.

2. Who called Rex to let him know that Phil was missing?

3. Why does Rex go to the library?

4. Where does Rex find Phil? What is Phil doing?

ANSWER KEY

Rex to the Rescue



1. Name four things that Rex is worried about.

Rex is worried about whether his hat will blow off, whether Phil will come out of his burrow, whether Phil will scratch him, and whether Rex will interpret Phil's message correctly.

2. Who called Rex to let him know that Phil was missing?

Cherise, who is also in the Groundhog Club, called Rex to let him know Phil was missing.

3. Why does Rex go to the library?

Rex goes to the library because Phil's enclosure is in the library and Rex wants to start there and look for clues.

4. Where does Rex find Phil? What is Phil doing?

Rex finds Phil in a crate of lettuce at the market. He is eating a carrot.

Name _____ Date _____



Using Context Clues

Using context clues from the text, determine the meanings of the words in the table.

Word	Context Clues	Definition
burrow		
summoned		
interpret		
annual		
investigate		
enclosure		
reclined		
munching		

ANSWER KEY



Using Context Clues

Using context clues from the text, determine the meanings of the words in the table.

Word	Context Clues	Definition
burrow	Clues will vary.	an underground hole or tunnel used by an animal as a home or for safety
summoned	Clues will vary.	asked or ordered someone or something to appear or come
interpret	Clues will vary.	to explain or understand something
annual	Clues will vary.	happening once every year
investigate	Clues will vary.	to make an effort to find out facts or information about something
enclosure	Clues will vary.	an area that is sealed off in some way to prevent entering or leaving
reclined	Clues will vary.	sitting back or lying down
munching	Clues will vary.	eating or chewing

Name _____ Date _____



Problem and Solution

What is the problem in the story?

How is the problem solved?

What do the actions Rex takes to solve the problem show about his character?

ANSWER KEY

Problem and Solution



What is the problem in the story?

It's almost time for the annual Groundhog Day event at Gobbler's Knob, and Punxsutawney Phil is missing.

How is the problem solved?

Rex investigates the situation, figures out where Punxsutawney Phil went, and goes to get him.

What do the actions Rex takes to solve the problem show about his character?

Responses will vary, but an example would be: *Rex is determined because he does not give up.*

Name _____ Date _____



Evaluating Summaries

Read each summary. Determine if it is correct or not. If it is incorrect, explain what is wrong with it.

Summary	What is wrong with the summary?
<p>Rex is president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle. He's worried about whether the event at Gobbler's Knob will go smoothly. Then he gets notified that Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, is missing. Rex investigates where Phil might have gone and figures out that the librarian took him home. Rex tells the librarian that she must give him back so the event can take place.</p>	
<p>Rex is president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle. He's worried about whether the event at Gobbler's Knob will go smoothly. Then he gets notified that Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, is missing. Rex investigates where Phil might have gone and finds him in the market with some produce that workers are unloading.</p>	
<p>Rex is worried about whether the event at Gobbler's Knob will go smoothly. Then he gets notified that Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, is missing. Rex investigates where Phil might have gone and finds him in the market with some produce that workers are unloading.</p>	

ANSWER KEY



Evaluating Summaries

Read each summary. Determine if it is correct or not. If it is incorrect, explain what is wrong with it.

Summary	What is wrong with the summary?
<p>Rex is president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle. He's worried about whether the event at Gobbler's Knob will go smoothly. Then he gets notified that Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, is missing. Rex investigates where Phil might have gone and figures out that the librarian took him home. Rex tells the librarian that she must give him back so the event can take place.</p>	<p>Incorrect information is included about why Phil was missing and how Rex got him back.</p>
<p>Rex is president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle. He's worried about whether the event at Gobbler's Knob will go smoothly. Then he gets notified that Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, is missing. Rex investigates where Phil might have gone and finds him in the market with some produce that workers are unloading.</p>	<p>This summary is correct.</p>
<p>Rex gets notified that Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, is missing. Rex investigates where Phil might have gone and finds him in the market with some produce that workers are unloading.</p>	<p>Important information is left out (that Rex is president of the club and that he is worried about the upcoming event).</p>

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