

Groundhog Capers

Procedure

1. Darken the room. Turn on a large flashlight and shine it toward the ceiling. Hold a groundhog stick puppet in front of the light ray to cast a groundhog shadow on the wall or ceiling.
2. Turn the lights on and talk about how shadows are made.
3. Share the legend of the groundhog: If February 2 is a sunny day, the groundhog will see its shadow as it emerges from its hole. That scares the groundhog, and it goes back into its hole to sleep for six more weeks of winter. If it is a cloudy day, the groundhog will stay out, signifying spring is on its way.
4. Have students listen carefully as you read "Chuckie Groundhog." Use the reproducible to make an overhead transparency.
5. Read it together. Ask for volunteers to retell the story.

Extension

Have students dramatize the poem. Use a large, clean trash can turned on its side for the groundhog's hole. Select students to play the parts of the groundhog, the sun, and clouds while the rest of the class reads the poem.

