

1



# Groundhog Day

1 Sai che animale indica la parola inglese "groundhog"? Scegli con un tick (✓) l'immagine corretta.

2



3



2 Leggi il testo e controlla la tua risposta.

The groundhog (*Marmota monax*) is a kind of ground squirrel that lives in North America. It has got very thick fur because it lives in such cold regions and it is excellent at swimming, climbing and digging. The groundhog hibernates during the winter months and wakes up in spring.

People in the USA and Canada celebrate Groundhog Day on 2nd February. They believe that if the day is cloudy, the groundhog stops hibernating to leave its burrow and this means that winter is almost over. However, if it is a sunny day, the groundhog sees its shadow and returns to its burrow and this means that there are six more weeks of winter to come. It may be just a superstition, but sunny winter days are often very cold because there are no clouds in the sky to keep the earth warm.

In the past, February was an important month because it came between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. There was a Celtic festival, *Imbolc*, which celebrated the birth of animals and the first planting of new crops; and the Christian festival of *Candlemas* which celebrated the purification of the Virgin Mary. German immigrants to Pennsylvania probably brought this tradition to North America in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Nowadays people get up very early to watch the groundhog coming out of its burrow and they celebrate the day with food, speeches and entertainment. Groundhog Day became famous because of the 1993 film starring Bill Murray.



3 **K** Rileggi il testo e indica se le frasi sono vere (True) o false (False).

- |  | T                        | F                                   |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The groundhog hasn't got fur because it lives in a hot place.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1 The groundhog hibernates during spring and wakes up in winter.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2 People in the USA and Canada celebrate Groundhog Day on 2nd February.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3 If it's sunny on Groundhog Day, it means winter is almost over.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4 The Celtic festival <i>Imbolc</i> celebrated the birth of animals and the first planting of new crops. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5 French immigrants brought this tradition to North America in the 16th and 17th centuries.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## COMPARING CULTURES

4 **ES** Prepara una presentazione su un giorno in cui le persone nel tuo paese sono particolarmente superstiziose rispondendo alle domande.

- What day is it?
- Is it a lucky day or an unlucky day?
- Why is it lucky or unlucky?
- What do people do on this day?
- Do you believe in it or is it just a superstition?