

## KIDS' ACTIVITY GUIDE

*Grumpy Groundhog* is a comical story about Groundhog Day. Using rhyme and playful artwork *Grumpy Groundhog* tells the tale of a groundhog who doesn't want to get out of bed. Your child will learn what motivates this groundhog to get out of bed and spend this special day with his friends!

In *Grumpy Groundhog* Maureen Wright portrays the groundhog as a friend who doesn't want to get out of bed on an exciting day. Your child will be able to relate to groundhog and maybe you can use this story to help get them out of bed in the morning. The townspeople try to get groundhog out of bed by bribing him with a variety of things, from food to new clothes. *Grumpy Groundhog* is a great book to teach your child about the Groundhog Day holiday and rhyming.

## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. What is a groundhog?
2. Where do groundhogs live?
3. What is your favorite holiday?
4. What is Groundhog Day?
5. Name the four seasons.
6. Describe what the weather is like in each season.
7. Which season is your favorite?
8. Do you like being woken up in the morning?
9. What is a rhyme?
10. Do you know what the word stubborn means?

The questions above will set the stage for reading *Grumpy Groundhog* and introduce your child to some of the concepts in the book.

## GROUNDHOG DAY BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Use the questions above to introduce your child to background information on groundhogs, rhyming, and the Groundhog Day holiday.

### KEY POINTS:

- Discuss what a groundhog is. Link to National Geographic's website on groundhogs:  
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/groundhog/>
- Compare the state of Pennsylvania to where you live. Compare the weather and climate in Pennsylvania to where you live. Links to info on Pennsylvania:  
<http://climate.psu.edu/> - Weather  
<http://awesomeamerica.com/pennsylvania/> - General Info
- Discuss the Groundhog Day holiday. Link to the FAQ on the official Groundhog Day website:  
<http://www.groundhog.org/more-to-know/faq/>

## MAKE YOUR OWN GROUNDHOG DOUGH ACTIVITY:

Your child will create their own three-dimensional groundhog with homemade dough.

### DOUGH MATERIALS (PER BATCH/COLOR):

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ½ cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1½ cups boiling water
- ½ cup cocoa powder
- 1 mixing bowl
- 1 large spoon
- 1 measuring cup

### RECIPE DIRECTIONS:

1. Help your child measure out and mix the flour, salt, cocoa, cream of tartar, and oil in the bowl. (For younger children mark and label whole numbers and halves on your measuring cup.)
2. You will add the boiling water.
3. Stir continuously until the dough becomes sticky; continue stirring until it forms into a ball.
4. Allow dough to cool (3–4 minutes).
5. Remove dough from bowl and knead it for a couple of minutes until it is no longer sticky, adding flour if necessary.
6. Store dough in a plastic container or plastic zip-topped bag.

Look at several pictures of groundhogs and help your child make their own groundhog. Leaving the dough out overnight will allow it to harden permanently. If you would like to make other colored dough leave out the cocoa and instead knead several drops of the food coloring into the dough in step five.

### Pictures of groundhogs:

[http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/4091/Marmota\\_monax/pictures/](http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/4091/Marmota_monax/pictures/)

## MAKE A BURROW ACTIVITY:

Groundhogs make burrows, which are a series of underground chambers. In this activity you and your child will create a groundhog burrow using construction paper.

### MATERIALS:

- Assorted colors of construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons / Markers / Colored Pencils

You and your child will cut out ovals to represent the chambers, and lines (straight or curved) to represent tunnels in the burrow. The main parts of a burrow are:

1. Sleeping chamber
2. Nursery chamber
3. Waste chamber (bathroom)
4. Main entrance
5. Second entrance

You will decorate and label each part of the burrow to represent its function. Use one large solid-colored piece of paper and link the chambers together and to the surface with the tunnel pieces.

### Website with a diagram of a groundhog burrow:

<http://www.highlightskids.com/science-stories/not-just-hole-ground>



## RHYMING ACTIVITY:

*Grumpy Groundhog* is written using rhyming couplets. This activity will allow your child to learn about and practice using rhyming words. Practice working on rhyming with your child by completing the chart on page 4.

A couplet is two lines of verse that follow in order and are the same length. Most couplets include a rhyme, such as “The people in town said with a shout. It’s Groundhog Day. Please come out.” Work with your child to fill in the chart on page 4 with words that rhyme with the last word. After filling out the chart have them make sentences completing the couplet with one of their rhyming words. Wrap up the activity by re-reading the book and letting your child take turns completing the lines in the book with their own rhyming word.

## VOCABULARY FOR GRUMPY GROUNDHOG ACTIVITY GUIDE:

As a post-reading activity ask your child to define the following vocabulary in their own words:

1. **Groundhog** – a North American burrowing rodent, that hibernates in the winter. Also called a woodchuck

2. **Groundhog Day** – February 2, when according to tradition the groundhog comes out of its burrow, and if it sees its shadow and is frightened back underground, there will be six more weeks of winter
3. **Burrow** – a hole or tunnel in the ground made by an animal for habitation
4. **Hibernation** – to pass the winter in a dormant state
5. **Holiday** – a day of celebration or remembrance, it may be religious or civic
6. **Jig** – a lively, springy dance
7. **Bouquet** – a bunch of flowers
8. **Winter** – the season between autumn and spring
9. **Spring** – the season between winter and summer
10. **Weather** – the state of the atmosphere with respect to temperature, wetness or dryness, wind speed, clearness or cloudiness



## GRUMPY GROUNDHOG RHYMING ACTIVITY:

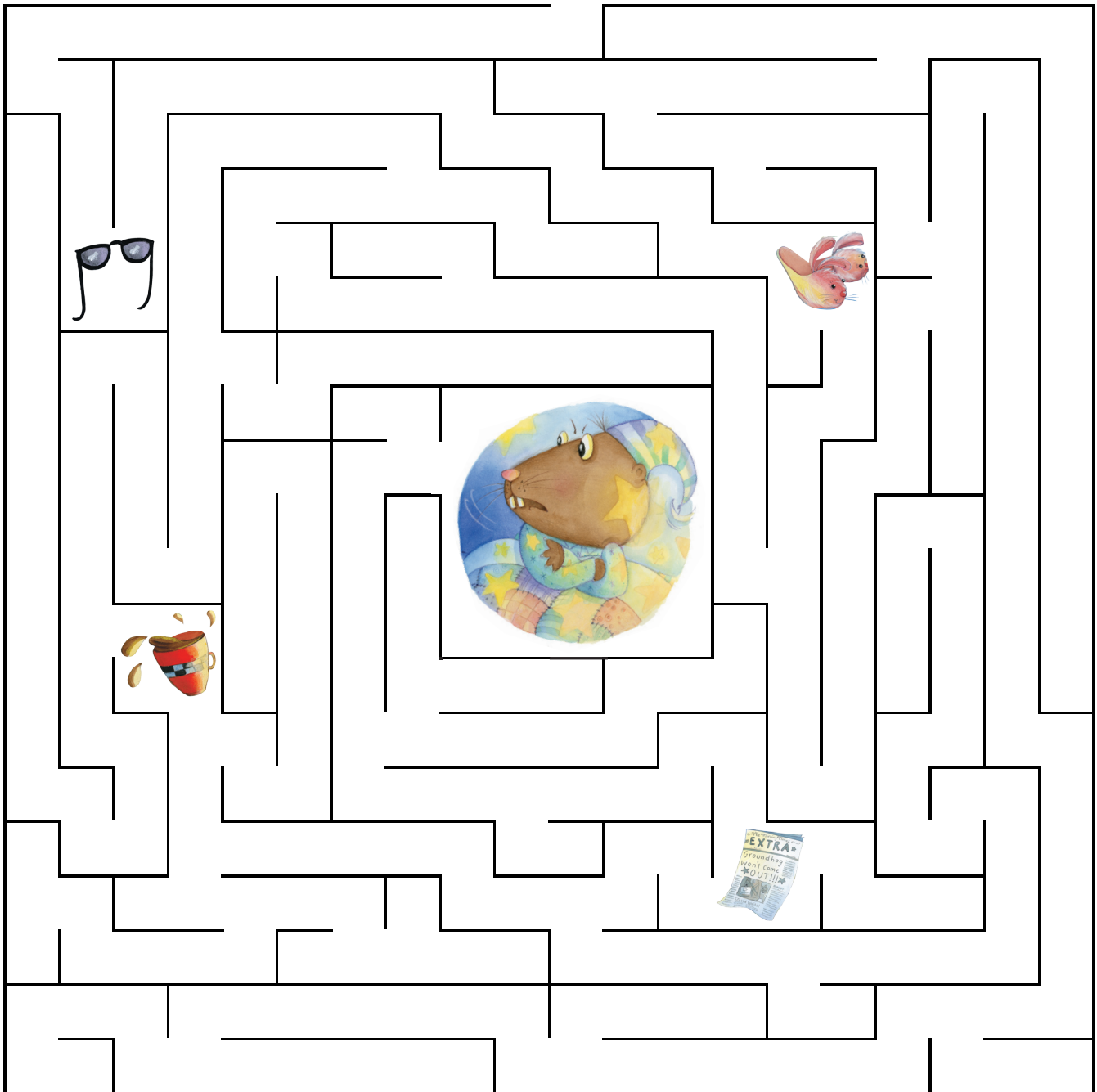
LINE 1 GRUMPY GROUNDHOG:	WORDS THAT RHYME WITH
The mayor dropped to his knobby <b>knees</b>	<b>knees:</b> trees, bees, skis, cheese, fleas, sneeze
The mayor stood before Groundhog's <b>door</b>	<b>door:</b>
"I won't come out!" the groundhog <b>said.</b>	<b>said:</b>
"I have an idea!" said a boy in the <b>crowd.</b>	<b>crowd:</b>
The people in town said with a <b>shout,</b>	<b>shout:</b>
Groundhog poured coffee from the <b>pot.</b>	<b>pot:</b>
A girl yelled, "Get him slippers to <b>wear!</b> "	<b>wear:</b>
He twirled and shouted, "Look at <b>me!</b> "	<b>me:</b>
They made a snowman, round and <b>fat.</b>	<b>fat:</b>
The groundhog said, "It's a wonderful <b>day!</b> "	<b>day:</b>

### SENTENCES THAT COMPLETE THE COUPLET:

**Example:** The mayor dropped to his knobby knees and begged the groundhog, "Come out **trees** (or any other word your child came up with)."

## GRUMPY GROUNDHOG MAZE:

Help the grumpy groundhog out of his burrow by collecting the four things the children give him so he will come out and show his shadow.



GRUMPY GROUNDHOG COLORING PAGE:



