

1 Read the text and for questions 1-3, choose the best answer A, B or C.



Groundhog Day hero: *Punxsutawney Phil*

All over the USA and Canada, people wait for 2nd February to come round so they can find out how much longer winter will last. But who are the animals that predict the weather on Groundhog Day? Read below to learn about the best-known of them all, Punxsutawney Phil.

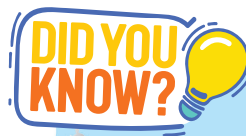
Punxsutawney Phil is the most famous animal in the world when it comes to Groundhog Day. Every year, people in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, crowd round his burrow at 7:24 am. The locals, along with the city council, news cameras and reporters all wait in excitement for Phil to come out and tell them what the weather will be like for the next six weeks.

People have looked to Phil to predict the weather since 1886. But wait! How can one groundhog live for over 130 years? The locals say that the secret is in a special "Groundhog Punch" that is given to Phil every summer. They say it keeps him strong and healthy for seven more years every time he drinks just a tiny bit!

Punxsutawney Phil is one of the reasons Groundhog Day has become such a popular festival. He has starred in many films, TV shows and news reports over the years, and has even met important figures like former US president Ronald Reagan in 1986 and celebrities like Oprah Winfrey in 1995. People love Phil not only because of his cute furry face, but also because he brings hope that the long winter in North America will soon end and spring will arrive.

- 1** What does Punxsutawney Phil predict on Groundhog Day?
A when winter will end
B when summer will end
C when spring will end
- 2** Where does Punxsutawney Phil live?
A in Canada
B in California
C in Pennsylvania
- 3** When did Groundhog Day start in Punxsutawney?
A 1995 **B** 1886 **C** 1986
- 4** According to stories, how has Punxsutawney Phil lived for so long?
A His burrow is unusual.
B He drinks a special punch.
C The locals keep him healthy.
- 5** Why is Punxsutawney Phil so popular?
A Because he's a symbol of hope.
B Because he only comes out once a year.
C Because he met Oprah.

- 2** **ICT** In groups, find information on another famous animal that can predict the weather. Present it to the class.



Groundhogs don't live in deserts. So, in southern California, instead of a groundhog, people turn to a tortoise to predict the end of winter on Groundhog Day. Her name is Mojave Maxine, and she lives in the Mojave Desert.

