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Groundhog Day: A Second Winter or Early Spring?

What does a sleepy, furry marmot have to do with seasonal change? According to fans of Punxsutawney Phil, everything! But why?

The story begins with Candlemas, an early Christian holiday where candles were blessed and distributed. Celebrators of the holiday eventually declared clear skies on Candlemas meant a longer winter.

The Roman legions, during the conquest of the northern country, brought this tradition to the Germans, who concluded that if the sun made an appearance on Candlemas Day, a hedgehog would cast a shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of bad weather or "Second Winter." German immigrants brought the tradition to Pennsylvania, but how did Punxsutawney Phil emerge?

In 1886, a spirited group of groundhog hunters from Punxsutawney dubbed themselves "The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club." One member was an editor of Punxsutawney's newspaper. Using his ink, he proclaimed Punxsutawney Phil, the local groundhog, to be the one and only weather prognosticating groundhog. He issued this proclamation on Candlemas, and yes, Groundhog Day. Phil's fame spread, and newspapers from around the globe began to report his Gobbler's Knob prediction. Today you will find 20,000+ in attendance and millions watching on television or via the web.

For more information, visit Punxsutawney's official Groundhog site.

IT'S OFFICIAL:

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) — The handlers of Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, say the furry rodent has failed to see his shadow, meaning means he's "predicted" an early spring.

Members of the top hat-wearing Inner Circle announced the “forecast” at sunrise, just before 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Records going back to 1887 show Phil has now predicted more winter 102 times while forecasting an early spring just 18 times. There are no records for the remaining years.
Research Help Is Here!

Do you need personalized help getting started with a research assignment? The librarians at Carlson and Suhr Libraries are available to answer questions and point you in the right direction!

Are you having trouble getting to the library? You can still benefit from the helpful advice of a reference librarian by giving us a call or contacting us via our online chat, texting or e-mail reference services.

Phone... If a quick call will help, please let us hear from you:

- Carlson Library 814-393-2490
- Suhr Library 814-393-1242 or 814-676-6591, ext. 1242
- Distance Education students 1-866-272-5612 (press 5 for Libraries)

Chat... If online chat is your style, try our Live Chat Reference Service. It's available during the times that Carlson Library reference services are available:

- Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Text... If the question is simple and the reply is too, contact our reference librarians by texting 814-343-9324. Note: Standard messaging rates apply.

Remember that SMS stands for Short Message Service. If the question (or answer) requires in-depth discussion, you probably should contact the Reference Librarian using another option.

E-Mail... When reference librarians are not available and your need is not time sensitive, contact them via email using our Ask a Librarian service. A email link is located on that page.

24/7... If you need help when the library is closed, we've got it covered. Clarion University Libraries have made arrangements for librarians at a consortium of other universities to help you. They don't know your courses, assignments, or professors, but they will do all they can to help you find the resources you need.

At the Clarion University Libraries website, click on the Ask a Librarian / LibAnswers link on the right-hand side of the screen. Then, click on the Ask Here PA link on the lower left side of the screen. Follow the instructions, and link to a college librarian elsewhere.

African-American Resource Guide

February is Black History Month.
Are you looking for information resources relating to African-American history and culture?
It contains information about the availability of relevant books, e-books, journals, databases, Web resources, as well as where to find information about how to cite sources in APA and MLA styles.

If you have questions or need assistance, stop by the libraries or call Carlson Library at 393-2490, Suhr Library at 676-6591, or Clarion Online distance education students can call toll-free at 866-272-5612 (press 5 for Library). Our chat and other online services are available at the Ask a Librarian! / LibAnswers! link on our website.

**Library Tip: Book & Resource Suggestions?**

If you know of a book, journal, or media item that you think the Libraries should add to our collections, please let us know. If you don’t remember the specific title, just let us know about the topic or subject area. Contact one of our reference librarians or send us your suggestions through the Libraries’ online Suggestion Box.

**The S.W.A.T. Minion's Tip: Scan And Fix A USB?**

Here's a common scenario for many Windows users: you pop in your flash drive (or the memory card from your camera) and Windows insists that there is a problem that needs fixed. Are you risking anything by ignoring the message to scan and fix the drive?

Although the warning has changed slightly in appearance, Windows has been issuing these warnings for a long time. The warning itself is a bit cryptic because it is a catch all for multiple issues.

The *most common* reason Windows prompts you to perform the scan and fix is that the removable media was not properly unmounted and removed from Windows the last time it was used. You know how most of us just unplug our SD cards and USB drives when we are done? That’s not good for your data and it makes Windows grumpy. When you plug the drive back in, Windows knows you didn’t eject it properly the last time and it yells at you. This isn't a *Windows-only* thing. It's bad practice to skip unmounting removable media when using other operating systems, too.

Another reason for the warning is corruption within - or damage to - the file system on the removable media.

So what should you do? You should definitely follow the recommendation to “scan and fix” or “repair” the disk (removable media). Windows launches the CHDSK application in the background and scans the disk.

Now, if you do this and then immediately turn right back around and unplug your flash drive or SD card without safely ejecting it, the same “There’s a problem with this drive” prompt will appear the next time you plug the device into your computer. To avoid that annoyance (and to develop a good habit that will protect your data and hardware) right-click on the USB device icon in the Windows system tray and select the removable device you want to eject.
Windows will be happy with you. Your data will be happy because all the read/write activity will terminate gracefully. You will be happy because Windows will stop nagging you. It’s a winning situation all around.

**Cranial Candy: Word Of The Week…**

**titan**

**PRONUNCIATION:**

(TYT-n)  

**MEANING:**

*noun*: A person, organization, or thing of great strength, size, or achievement.

**ETYMOLOGY:**

From Titan, any of a family of giant gods in Greek mythology who were overthrown by Zeus and company. Atlas was a titan. Earliest documented use: 1412.

**USAGE:**

“But investors haven’t exactly rewarded the media titan: Disney’s stock has tumbled more than six percent since that premiere.”

Drew Harwell; Has the Force Deserted Disney?; *The Argus* (Cape Town, South Africa); Jan 8, 2016.

Although we do not “repair” computers, the S.W.A.T. Team (Students Who Assist With Technology) on Level A of Carlson Library is always happy to help. Having an issue? Let us take a *swat* at it!

**Something To Think About:**

It's easy to attack and destroy an act of creation.  
It's a lot more difficult to perform one.  

~ Chuck Palahniuk