

# Groundhog Gets A Say

mentor text unit

Mentor Sentence Lesson  
Interactive Activity  
Reading Activities  
Writing Prompt  
Vocabulary



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# Digital Learning Links

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[Interactive Notebook Activity](#)

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# Groundhog Gets a Say By Pamela Curtis Swallow



Mentor Sentence Focus Standard: L.1 (relative pronouns)

## Reading Lesson Ideas:

R.1: Students can use evidence to support what they learn about groundhogs.

R.2: Have students summarize the main idea of the book.

R.4: Students use context clues to determine the meaning of higher-level words (for example: marmot) from the book.

R.7: Students can explain how text features contribute to the book.

R.8 Students explain how the author used illustrations and text to support her point about groundhogs being important.

## Writing Lesson Ideas:

W.1, W.7: Students can write an opinion piece after researching an animal. They should give reasons why the animal is important.

W.2, W.7: Students can research more about groundhogs or Groundhog Day and write an informational piece.



**Monday** - possibilities of things to notice  
 \*compound sentence  
 sentence defines words like marmotophile, marmot  
 suffix -phile = people who love  
 prepositional phrase – in the family  
 contraction – we're=we are  
 plurals – rodents, marmots, people, marmotophiles  
 \*relative pronoun – who  
 declarative

**Tuesday** - label the sentence  
We're - pronoun/helping verb in contraction  
in, of - preposition  
the - article  
family, rodeo - noun  
called, love - verb  
so - conjunction  
who - relative pronoun  
us - pronoun  
are - helping verb

**We're** in the family of rodents called **marmos** who **love** us **are** called marmotophiles.

complete subjects  
simple subjects

complete predicates  
simple predicates

**Wednesday** - possibility of revised sentence

We're in the large family of rodents called marmots, so the people who adore us are called marmotophiles.  
(added adjective, changed verb)

**Thursday** - possibility of imitation sentence

We ate the last of the birthday cake at his party, so the people who hadn't eaten any were disappointed.

Relative pronouns are used to connect phrases and clauses. They are used to put glue on the end of a phrase or clause and put glue on the beginning of the clause or phrase that follows. Fill in a relative pronoun that connects the two phrases and sentences. Write the correct form of the relative pronoun in the space provided.

## Relative Pronouns

that

introduces a  
clause about a  
thing

who

introduces called marmoset  
clause about ~ Groundhog  
person

# PREF

File with what logs: that or w

5. Even who wanted the winner predicted  
watched the game come off like a

6. Groups and keys are the only things that have no associated holiday.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ **that** \_\_\_\_\_ their cars clean.

8. Gardeners who have their vegetables eaten by rodents get very angry.



We're in the family of  
rodents called marmots,

# VIEW

## ~C~undha Gets A Say

We're in the family of rodents called marmots, so the people who love us are called marmotophiles.

~Groundhog Gets A Say

We're in the family of rodents called marmots, so the people who love us are called marmotophiles.

~Groundhog Gets A Say

NEW

...re in the ...  
 ...mo ...  
 Name: ...wer K ...  
 ...ing Ass ...  
 ...were ...  
 ...he far ... of rodents ... so the ...  
 ...are called ...  
 ...We're ...  
 ...the ...  
 ...ke ...  
 ...ence. Re ...  
 ...ence correctly:

marmots, so we're in the family of rodents called marmots, so the people called marm who love us are called marmotophiles.

All of the following sentences are compound sentences. Circle the conjunctions that connect the two clauses or phrases to make compound sentences:

2. I go down a few feet and then up a foot, and then I go down again.

3. My eyes, ears and nose are set up high so I can see what's around.

4. We're not all that quick, but we can run as fast as an average fourth grader.

12

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4

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# Squirrel's Sayings

Add quotation marks and tags to Squirrel's sayings from Groundhog Gets A Say. \*\*Using S.O.D. is not allowed!\*\*

Quotation marks belong around what someone **SAYS!**

Tags tell who is saying the quote, and always includes the verb said, or one of its many synonyms! (such as, pondered, exclaimed, yelled, etc. and so on...)

1. "He's getting a fat head," Squirrel mumbled.
2. "I can think of a few other names to call him," joked Squirrel, "like Mr. Full of Himself."
3. "Look, indoor plumbing!" Squirrel declared. "That's classy."
4. "What'd he just say?! He can't be in my family!" cried Squirrel.
5. "Right. I remember the mess in Mom's of ... Mom's garden?" Squirrel reminded the others.
6. Squirrel mumbled, "Yackery yack yack... My ears are tired."
7. "Hey, we squirrels have those kind of teeth too," Squirrel stated. "Maybe we really are related."
8. Squirrel wondered, "How do you keep your teeth short during the long snooze?"
9. "So you wake up just to give us the weather report?" Squirrel asked.
10. "Aw," sighed Squirrel. "That's sweet!"



Name: Possible Answers

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Groundhog Gets a Say

Write the information you learned from the text features in the book.

text feature

what I learned

diagram/map

Groundhogs live underground in burrows where they have a nest, a potty, and a spare room

illustrated chart

Predators of groundhogs are foxes, birds of prey, dogs, and coyotes, but not animals.

illustrated chart

Groundhogs make their homes in fields, woods, rocky areas, thickets, and under sheds.

illustrated chart

Groundhogs eat fruits, veggies, grains, grass, clover, and weeds



Name: **Answer Key**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Things I've Learned About Groundhogs

other names for a groundhog: \_\_\_\_\_ groundhog habits:

- waddle
- waddle
- draw and label the burrow
- lives in fields, woods, meadows, rocky areas, or under sheds and porches

a groundhog's behaviors:

- digging- can move 700 pounds of dirt
- can climb trees
- can run
- can run as fast as a average
- gender

interesting groundhog facts:

- related to squirrels
- predators are foxes, dogs, coyotes, and birds
- is a vegetarian
- he keeps digging burrows to gnaw
- he and his mate touch noses and rub cheeks

a groundhog's \*adaptations\*:

\*behaviors or features that help an animal survive\*

ear flaps keep ears clean when digging  
eyes, ears, and nose are set so high to peek out of burrow easily  
strong sense of smell  
strong teeth also chattering keeps enemies away  
hibernating





# Groundhog: Facts & Opinions



Answer each question by only stating facts, and then answer the same question giving your opinion.

Just the Facts Your Opinion

1. What do groundhogs look like?

Groundhogs are brown, furry rodents with small ears and big teeth.

Groundhogs are adorable brown, furry creatures with cute little ears.

2. Describe a groundhog's home.

Groundhogs dig a hole with rooms to sleep and go to the bathroom. It keeps them safe and dry.

Groundhogs create a nice home! They dig a hole to go to the bathroom. Now, that's smart!

3. What are groundhog's teeth like?

Groundhogs' teeth keep growing, so they must gnaw to keep them short. They also use them to keep enemies away by gnawing on them.

Groundhogs would have disgusting, long teeth if they didn't gnaw things to keep them short. They also use them to keep enemies away.

Name: Possible Answers Date: \_\_\_\_\_

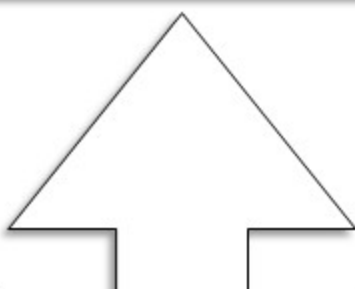
## Groundhog Gets a Say

Write the main idea and give details to support it.



Main idea:

Groundhogs are very interesting animals.



Groundhogs can dig up to 100 feet in one day.

Groundhogs can run as fast as the average squirrel.

Groundhogs hibernate and are studied by scientists to see if people could hibernate too.

Name: Possible Answers

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Groundhog Gets a Say



Define unknown words in the story.

word: \_\_\_\_\_ what I think it means \_\_\_\_\_ actual meaning \_\_\_\_\_

**burrow**

hole or tunnel dug  
by a small animal

word: \_\_\_\_\_

what I think it means \_\_\_\_\_

**marmot**

actual meaning \_\_\_\_\_

bushy-tailed  
burrowing rodent

word: \_\_\_\_\_

what I think it means \_\_\_\_\_

**predator**

actual meaning \_\_\_\_\_

an animal that eats  
other animals

word: \_\_\_\_\_

what I think it means \_\_\_\_\_

**win**

actual meaning \_\_\_\_\_

bites or nibbles  
unrelated



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# We Demand Respect!

Brainstorm about an animal that you think deserves more respect.

Strong Lead:

PREVIEW

Important Fact:

Your Opinion of Why It's Important:

PREVIEW

Your Opinion of Why It's Important:

Important Fact:

Your Opinion of Why It's Important:

PREVIEW

Wrap It Up End!

ought

chuck

PREVIEW



© jivey



© jivey

hurry

alert

PREVIEW



© jivey



© jivey

grow

slumber

PREVIEW



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Name: **ANSWER KEY**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Use the text and picture clues to help you infer the meaning of these words.

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	BOOK CLUES	YOUR DEFINITION
ought	verb	The groundhog thinks his holiday should last longer	should or must
chuck	verb	moves rocks and dirt, throws it in the pictures	throw
burrow	noun	the hole that goes underground where he lives	an animal's underground
alert	adjective	can't sneak up on him, watches for predators	aware and observant
gnaw	verb	uses his teeth to get through	chew
slumber	noun	his snoring, the picture of him sleeping	time of sleep



Name: **ANSWER KEY**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WORD ASSOCIATION

Associate the vocabulary words with the events, and explain your thinking.



PREVIEW

The bride tossed her bouquet over her shoulder into the waiting crowd.

The bride **chucked** her bouquet.

Jameson's parents felt he should clean his room before he could go to the movies.

Jameson **ought** to clean his room.

April's son had a nightmare and settled down into a deep slumber.

April was **settling** her son into slumber.

Harris watched as a rabbit disappeared into the ground.

The rabbit went into its **burrow**.

Ellen nibbled every kernel of corn off of the corn cob.

Ellen was **gnawing** on the corn.

Thanks to the police officer, the suspect in the robbery was captured.

The police officer was in order to **capture** the suspect.

PREVIEW

Name: **ANSWER KEY** Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# ANALOGIES



Analogies show relationships between two words. Think of how the words are related. Use the analogy to solve for the missing word.

Example: *groundhog* is to *groundhog* as *felis* is to *cat*.  
(Groundhogs are in the family of *felis*, and cats are in the family of *felis*.)

chuck : keep :: murmur : should be synonym of shout

dreams : slumber :: like food : dinner

ponder : think :: ought : should/must

snail : shell :: groundhog : burrow

unprepared : ready :: unobservant : alert

Create your own analogies using vocabulary words.

answers will vary

PREVIEW

Name: **ANSWER KEY** Date: \_\_\_\_\_**SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW**1. Which word is an **ANTONYM** for lumber?

a. rest

b. sleep

c. wake2. Is it likely that a fish would sleep in a burrow? Why or why not?**No because fish live in water, and a burrow is in the ground.**3. Give an example of something that you ought to do at school.**Answers will vary; could be- work hard, learn, etc...**4. Draw a picture of someone who looks aler**could show someone with eyes open  
watching and/or listening**5. Which word has the same meaning as chuck?

a. catch

b. throw

c. clutch

6. Which verb is like throw or chuck?**Answers will vary; could be- catch, move, etc.**



# GROUNDHOG

day

Will the groundhog  
see his shadow?

6 more weeks



LOOK  
no shadow



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GROUNTHOG

Take a picture

Tally the predictions. Will the groundhog see his shadow?

6 more weeks

PREVIEW

LOOK  
no shadow

PREVIEW





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