

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the 4-year-old student will have a basic understanding of Groundhog Day and its significance.

Materials and Prep

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Groundhog Day coloring sheets (optional)

No prior knowledge is required for this lesson.

Activities

- **Create a Groundhog Day Craft:** Help the student make a groundhog puppet using construction paper, crayons or markers, scissors, and tape or glue. Cut out a groundhog shape from brown construction paper, draw a face, and attach a popsicle stick or straw to the back to make a puppet. Encourage the student to use their imagination and decorate the puppet as they like.
- **Coloring Fun:** Provide the student with Groundhog Day coloring sheets (optional) and let them color them using crayons or markers. This activity will enhance their creativity and fine motor skills.
- **Shadow Play:** Take the student outside on a sunny day and observe their shadow. Explain that groundhogs also have shadows. Encourage the student to make different poses and observe how their shadow changes. This activity will introduce the concept of shadows and relate it to Groundhog Day.
- **Groundhog Day Story Time:** Read a children's book about Groundhog Day to the student. Discuss the story and ask questions to ensure their understanding.

Talking Points

- "Groundhog Day is a special day when we check if the groundhog sees its shadow."
- "A groundhog is a cute animal that lives in burrows or holes in the ground."
- "If the groundhog sees its shadow, it means winter will continue for six more weeks."
- "If the groundhog doesn't see its shadow, it means spring will come early."
- "We can make our own groundhog puppet using paper and colors. Let's be creative and decorate it!"
- "Let's go outside and see our own shadows. Can you make your shadow bigger or smaller by moving?"
- "We can read a story about Groundhog Day. It will tell us more about what happens on this special day."