

## Punxsutawney Phil Catches His Shadow, Six More Winter Weeks to Go

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Associated Press



**PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa.** — The world's most famous weather *prognosticating* groundhog was *roused* from his burrow at 7:23 a.m. Thursday and saw his shadow, a sign that there'll be six more weeks of winter. Though the crowds booed, hundreds were rowdy anyway, dressed in black and gold and swirling Pittsburgh Steelers Terrible Towels in the air in anticipation of Sunday's Super Bowl. Phil even got in on the Steelers frenzy, with his handlers draping a Terrible Towel over him as he emerged.

Each Feb. 2, thousands of people descend on Punxsutawney, a town of about 6,100 people located about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, for a little midwinter *revelry*, celebrating what had essentially been a German superstition. This is just a ball. I'm having so much fun," said Nancy Durr, who had rub-on Punxsutawney Phil tattoos on each of her cheeks. Durr, of Paxton, Neb., who came to this small western Pennsylvania town with her six brothers and sisters to celebrate her 50th birthday.

According to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, Phil has seen his shadow 96 times, hasn't seen it 14 times and there are no records for nine years. The last time Phil failed to see his shadow was in 1999. Still, Thursday's forecast was calling for variable cloudiness and a high of about 48 degrees — *significantly* warmer than the temperatures in the teens the last two years.

Because no tickets are sold, organizers don't do an official count. But, an estimated 2,000 people were on hand last year, when Groundhog Day fell on a Wednesday. Crowds are larger when Groundhog Day falls on or closer to the weekend and in 2002, estimates placed the number of revelers at 30,000 to 40,000.

Interest in the town's festivities got a huge boost after "Groundhog Day," in which Murray plays a television reporter covering Groundhog Day. Each day he wakes up to the same day. "As repetitive as it can be, it's different every year," said Mike Johnston, a member of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club's Inner Circle — the top-hat- and tuxedo-wearing businessmen responsible for carrying on the tradition.

1. Punxsutawney is located approximately 803 miles NE from Stockbridge, GA. Assuming you wanted to arrive in time for the Thursday, February 2, 7:23 a.m. groundhog day performance, and were averaging 62 miles per hour by vehicle, what is the latest time and date you could depart? Explain.
2. According to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, in simplest form, what is the probability that Phil will see his shadow? Explain.
3. When are crowds typically larger for Groundhog Day? Explain.
4. What has attributed to the large interest in Groundhog Day?
5. According to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, what percent of the time has the Groundhog *NOT* seen his shadow?
6. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least seven ways using the "**Reading Across The Curriculum**" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
7. In paragraph form, list at least five ways using guidelines from the **Writing Guidelines** will make you a stronger and more convincing writer; specifically, on The Daughtry Times.
8. Using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the following italicized words *prognosticating*, *revelry*, *roused*, and *significantly* above.
9. In paragraph form, explain five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.