

Punxsutawney Phil - Wikipedia Jump to content Main menu Main menu move to sidebar hide Navigation Main page Contents Current events Random article About Wikipedia Contact us Contribute Help Learn to edit Community portal Recent changes Upload file Search Search Donate Appearance Create account Log in Personal tools Create account Log in Pages for logged out editors learn more Contributions Talk Contents move to sidebar hide (Top) 1 Folklore 2 Punxsutawney Phil canon 3 Reception 4 In media and popular culture 5 Past predictions Toggle Past predictions subsection 5.1 Predictive accuracy 6 See also 7 References 8 Further reading 9 External links Toggle the table of contents Punxsutawney Phil 9 languages Čeština Eesti Español Français Հայերեն Magyar Português Русский Українська Edit links Article Talk English Read Edit View history Tools Tools move to sidebar hide Actions Read Edit View history General What links here Related changes Upload file Special pages Permanent link Page information Cite this page Get shortened URL Download QR code Print/export Download as PDF Printable version In other projects Wikimedia Commons Wikidata item Appearance move to sidebar hide Coordinates : 40°55′49″N 78°57′28″W﻿ / ﻿40.9302°N 78.9578°W﻿ / 40.9302; -78.9578 From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Groundhog Day figure Phil being held by a member of the Inner Circle on February 2, 2018 Punxsutawney Phil (/ ˌ p ʌ ŋ k s ə ˈ t ɔː n i /) is a groundhog residing in Young Township near Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania , United States, who is the central figure in Punxsutawney's annual Groundhog Day celebration. Folklore [edit] On February 2 each year, [1] Punxsutawney holds a civic festival with music and food. During the ceremony, which begins well before the winter sunrise, Phil emerges from his temporary home on Gobbler's Knob, located in a rural area about 2 miles (3 km) southeast of the town. According to the tradition, if Phil sees his shadow and returns to his hole, he has predicted six more weeks of winter - like weather. [1] If Phil does not see his shadow, he has predicted an "early spring ." [2] Punxsutawney's event is the most famous of many Groundhog Day festivals held in the United States and Canada. The event formally began in 1887, although its roots go back even further. [3] The event is based upon a communal light-hearted suspension of disbelief which extends to the assertion that the same groundhog has been making predictions since the 19th century. The event is organized by the "Inner Circle" – recognizable by their top hats and tuxedos – who ostensibly communicate with Phil to receive his prediction.

The vice president of the Inner Circle prepares two scrolls in advance of the actual ceremony, one proclaiming six more weeks of winter and one proclaiming an early spring. At daybreak on February 2, Punxsutawney Phil awakens from his burrow on Gobbler's Knob, is helped to the top of the stump by his handlers, and purportedly explains to the president of the Inner Circle, in a language known as "Groundhogese", [3] whether he has seen his shadow. The president of the Inner Circle, the only person able to understand Groundhogese through his possession of an ancient acacia wood cane, then interprets Phil's message, and directs the vice president to read the proper scroll to the crowd gathered on Gobbler's Knob and the masses of "phaithphil phollowers" tuned in to live broadcasts around the world. [citation needed] The Inner Circle scripts the Groundhog Day ceremonies in advance, with the Inner Circle deciding beforehand whether Phil will see his shadow. [4] The Stormfax Almanac has made note of the weather conditions on each Groundhog Day since 1999; the almanac has recorded 12 incidents in a 20-year span in which the Inner Circle said the groundhog saw his shadow while the sky was cloudy or there was rain or snow coming down, and in one case said the groundhog did not see his shadow despite sunshine. [5] Outside of Groundhog Day, Phil resides with a mate, Phyllis, at the Punxsutawney Memorial Library in a climate-controlled environment. In March 2024, the Inner Circle announced that Phil had sired two babies, the first time in the history of the event that such a siring had happened; the birth surprised the Inner Circle, which had assumed that groundhogs do not breed in captivity. As a result of the births, the family will move permanently to Gobblers Knob. The Inner Circle disowned the babies from ever inheriting

their father's position. [6] Punxsutawney Phil canon [edit] The practices and lore of Punxsutawney Phil's predictions are predicated on a light-hearted suspension of disbelief by those involved. According to the lore, there is only one Phil, and all other groundhogs are impostors. [7] It is claimed that this one groundhog has lived to make weather prognostications since 1886, sustained by drinks of "groundhog punch" or "elixir of life" administered at the annual Groundhog Picnic in the fall. [7] The lifespan of a groundhog in the wild is roughly six years. [8] According to the Groundhog Club, Phil, after the prediction, speaks to the club president in the language of 'Groundhogese', which supposedly only the current president can understand, and then his prediction is translated and revealed to all. [7] The Groundhog Day celebration is rooted in Germanic tradition that says that if a hibernating animal casts a shadow on February 2, the Christian celebration of Candlemas , winter and cold weather will last another six weeks. If no shadow is seen, legend says, spring will come early. In Germany, the tradition evolved into a myth that if the sun came out on Candlemas, a hedgehog would cast its shadow, predicting snow all the way into May. [9] When German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania, they transferred the tradition onto local fauna, replacing hedgehogs with groundhogs. Several other towns in the region hold similar Groundhog Day events . Phil first received his name in 1961. The origins of the name are unclear, but speculation suggests that it may have been indirectly named after Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh . [10] Reception [edit] Prior to 1993, the Groundhog Day event in Punxsutawney attracted crowds of approximately 2,000. The popularity of the film Groundhog Day brought significantly more attention to the event, with annual crowds rising to 10,000–20,000. A notable exception was 2021, when the event took place without any crowds due to the COVID-19 pandemic . [11] [12] Since approximately 2018, the event is streamed online each year. [13] [14] Also given the recent increase in crowd sizes, three sitting governors of Pennsylvania have attended the festivities, all since 2000: Ed Rendell in 2003, Tom Corbett in 2012, and Josh Shapiro in 2023 and 2024. [15] Phil was named the "Official" State Meteorologist by Governor Shapiro during the 2024 ceremony. [16] People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals object to the event, claiming that Phil is put under stress. They suggest replacing Phil with a robotic groundhog. [17] In some cases where Phil's prognostications have been incorrect, organizations have jokingly made legal threats against the groundhog. Such tongue-in-cheek actions have been made by a prosecutor in Ohio, [18] [19] [20] the sheriff's office of Monroe County, Pennsylvania , [21] and the Merrimack, New Hampshire Police Department. [22] In media and popular culture [edit] Miniature replica at MRRV, Carnegie Science Center , Pittsburgh Phil and the town of Punxsutawney were portrayed in the 1993 film Groundhog Day . The actual town used to portray Punxsutawney in the film is Woodstock, Illinois . [23] In Groundhog Day , the 2016 Broadway musical adaptation of the film, Phil is ascribed a more mythical role. In 1995, Phil flew to Chicago for a guest appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show , which aired on Groundhog Day, February 2, 1995. [24] A 2002 episode of the children's animated series Stanley , titled "Searching for Spring", featured Punxsutawney Phil. Phil was the main attraction in "Groundhog Day", the April 10, 2005 episode of the MTV series Viva La Bam . In the episode, street skater Bam Margera holds a downhill race in honor of Punxsutawney Phil at Bear Creek Mountain Resort in Macungie, Pennsylvania . The Pennsylvania Lottery 's mascot is a groundhog named Gus , referred to in commercials as "the second most famous groundhog in Pennsylvania", in deference to Phil. [25] Because the Groundhog Club Inner Circle has trademarked the use of the name "Punxsutawney Phil", no commercial entity may use the name without the permission from the Inner Circle, which does not allow commercialization of the name. Past predictions [edit] Punxsutawney Phil's predictions [26] [27] 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955

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 salmon silver grey {{{12}}} Predictive accuracy [edit] The Inner Circle, in keeping with the suspension
 of disbelief , claims a 100% accuracy rate, and an approximately 80% accuracy rate in recorded
 predictions. They claim that whenever the prediction is wrong, the person in charge of translating
 the message must have made a mistake in their interpretation. Impartial estimates place the
 groundhog's accuracy between 35% and 41%. [28] [29] [30] See also [edit] Balzac Billy , the
 official groundhog of Balzac, Alberta , Canada Buckeye Chuck , the official groundhog of Marion, Ohio
 , United States Fred la Marmotte , the official groundhog of Val-d'Espoir , Quebec , Canada General
 Beauregard Lee , the official groundhog of Jackson, Georgia , United States (and by extension, the
 entire Southern US) Gus the Groundhog , mascot of the Pennsylvania Lottery Shubenacadie Sam ,
 the official groundhog of Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia , Canada Staten Island Chuck , the official
 groundhog of New York City, New York , United States Stormy Marmot , a yellow-bellied marmot who
 is part of the Groundhog Day celebrations of Aurora, Colorado , United States. Wiarton Willie , the
 official groundhog of Wiarton, Ontario , Canada References [edit] ^ a b "Groundhog Day 2020
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