

**WORDS TO KNOW**

celebrating  
different  
gloomy

cel • e • brat • ing  
dif • fer • ent  
gloom • y

groundhog  
smelly  
special

ground • hog  
smell • y  
spe • cial

**Holidays**

We all know about holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, and the Fourth of July. There are other special days in the year too. This story will tell you about some of those special days. It will also tell you some special facts about holidays.

February 2nd is Groundhog Day. The groundhog is a furry little animal who sleeps under the ground in the winter. He comes out in the spring when the weather has warmed up a bit. An old story says that on February 2nd he comes up out of his hole to have a look around. If the sun is shining and he sees his shadow, he scoots back into his hole to sleep for six more weeks. This means winter will last six more weeks.

If it's a gloomy day and the groundhog doesn't see his shadow he stays out of his hole and spring comes very soon! Of course, we all know that spring comes on March 21st, groundhog or no groundhog.

Another animal has a special day. March 1st is National Pig Day. Many people think pigs are dirty and smelly. They really only seem that way because they often roll in mud. This is how they cool off when it is hot. Pigs are very smart animals. They can be taught to do some of the tricks we teach dogs. So on the next March 1st think some nice thoughts about pigs!

The second Sunday in May is Mother's Day. This was made a national holiday by a lady named Anna Jarvis. She spent most of her life taking care of her mother and her sister, who was blind. Anna never married and was never a mother.

The third week in October is National Popcorn Week. The United

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States grows almost all the popcorn eaten in the whole world. When	306
Columbus came to America, he learned about this strange food from the	318
Indians. Today we can buy popcorn in many, many different flavors. Have	330
you tried Tutti Frutti or Peanut Butter? The average American kid eats	342
about 33 quarts of popcorn each year. Did you know that you can grow	356
popcorn in your yard?	360
There are many other holidays in the year. Many of them have	372
interesting stories and special reasons for celebrating. The most special,	382
of course, with the best reason, is your birthday!	391

WORDS READ	TIME	WORDS PER MINUTE

1. What day is Groundhog Day? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What special day comes on March 1st? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many children did Anna Jarvis have? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where is most of the popcorn grown? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How much popcorn does the average kid eat in a year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When is your birthday? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_