

What Does a Groundhog Know? Weather Proverbs Activity

Different languages and cultures have different *proverbs*. *Proverbs* are short, old sayings. Many people know them. Each *proverb* is based on a common experience of a group of people.

Here is a proverb about Groundhog Day:

*If the sun shines on Groundhog Day,
Half the fuel and half the hay.*

What do you think this means? It means that, if the sun shines on Groundhog Day, then the groundhog will see its shadow. If the groundhog sees its shadow, then there will be six more weeks of winter. (You will need your fuel and hay!)

Discussion, Part I.

1 In small groups, discuss what these proverbs mean. (Use the hints in the box below!)

- 1 Cold is the night
When stars shine bright.
- 2 Seagull, seagull, sit on the sand.
It's never good weather while you are on land.
- 3 Red sky at night, sailors' delight;
Red sky at morning, sailors take warning.
- 4 A year of snow,
A year of plenty.
- 5 Clear moon,
Frost soon.

seagull, n.	a gray and white bird that lives near the ocean
sailor, n.	someone who works on a boat or a ship
warning, n.	a message that something bad is going to happen
delight, n.	happiness
plenty, n.	a lot
frost, n.	ice that covers things outside

Discussion, Part II.

2 Share some weather proverbs from your culture with your group. Try to translate them and then explain them in English.

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