

## N2K Week 5 Lesson 1

Directions: Read the following passage. Think about corrections and improvements that this student could make to their paper about a popular winter holiday. Then answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

### Groundhog Day

(1) Every year on February 2, the citizens of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania gather to see if a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow. (2) It is an exciting day, full of polka music, crowds, and festivities. (3) Why does an ordinary groundhog get so much attention? (4) Punxsutawney Phil is the star of the annual Groundhog Day, a day that will supposedly predict whether or not spring is coming.

(5) Every year on Groundhog Day, people gather around Punxsutawney Phil's hole to watch for him. (6) The groundhog comes out of his hole and people look to see if the groundhog's shadow is seen. (7) Traditionally, if the day is sunny, and Phil's shadow appears, winter will continue for another six weeks. (8) But, if the day is cloudy, and Phil casts no shadow, then winter will end soon.

(9) This event may seem a little strange for modern America, but there is a long history that led to its adoption here. (10) In Europe, people used to celebrate a holiday called Candlemas on February 2. (11) People believe that if Candlemas fell on a sunny day, then winter would last for another six weeks. (12) Over time, German folklore added the idea that a badger or hedgehog coming out of hibernation on Candlemas would look for its shadow. (13) If it was frightened by its shadow because the day was sunny, then winter would continue for another six weeks.

(14) German immigrants to America brought the Candlemas tradition with them. (15) The Germans settled in Pennsylvania during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. (16) They substituted groundhogs, which were plentiful in America, for hedgehogs or badgers to make the Candlemas prediction. (17) Then, in the late 1800s, newspaper editor Clymer H. Freas and Congressman W. Smith decided to start a winter festival. (18)