

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Groundhog or Woodchuck?

by Kelly Hashway

What's the difference between a groundhog and a woodchuck? Actually, they are the same animal. Groundhogs are also known as woodchucks and even marmots.



Groundhogs are the largest members of the squirrel family. They are a member of a special group

of ground squirrels.

They do not look like

other squirrels. Even with

their long tails, they are able to dig out their surroundings. Groundhogs like to stay alert, which is why you often see them

standing on their hind legs and being very still. If a groundhog senses danger, it will give a loud whistle to warn other groundhogs. Besides whistling, groundhogs will grind their teeth together and make low barking sounds.

Climbing trees isn't a groundhog's only talent. They are also good swimmers. But groundhogs prefer to be in burrows under the ground, which is where they make their homes. A burrow usually has anywhere from two to five exits to help the groundhog escape predators. Luckily, groundhogs have very strong limbs and curved claws that make digging easy. Once a burrow is made, the groundhog will stay close to it. This is why they make their burrows near



**~ PREVIEW ~**  
Please log in or register to download  
the printable version of this worksheet.

or check

sources of food. Groundhogs eat mostly wild grass and other vegetation. But they do eat small animals like grasshoppers, snails, and grubs, too.

While groundhogs will eat nuts like squirrels do, they do not store food the same way. Groundhogs will eat and eat all summer long to build up fat in their bodies. Once the weather starts getting cold, they hibernate like bears in underground burrows. These are called "winter burrows" and are different from the burrows groundhogs use during the summer months. They'll sleep until spring, living off the body fat they have stored up all summer.



Whether they become quiet

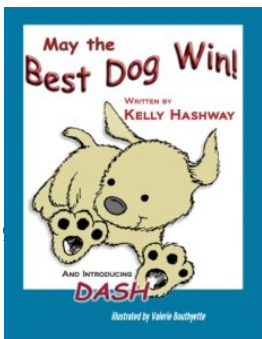


**~ PREVIEW ~**

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

es have

## About the Author



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even has his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Groundhog or Woodchuck?

by Kelly Hashway



1. What is the difference between a groundhog and a woodchuck?
  - a. Groundhogs are larger than woodchucks.
  - b. Woodchucks climb trees, but groundhogs do not.
  - c. Groundhogs are marmots, but woodchucks are not.
  - d. Woodchucks and groundhogs are the same animal.
  
2. Complete the graphic organizer.



**~ PREVIEW ~**

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

3. Explain how a groundhog's burrow is designed to keep the groundhog safe from predators.

---

---

---

4. Do you think a groundhog is likely to weigh more in early spring or late autumn? Explain.

---

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Groundhog or Woodchuck?

## Vocabulary Activity



Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. \_\_\_ l e \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** quick to notice any danger

2. \_\_\_ l \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** c

**PREVIEW**

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

3. \_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** u

4. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ o \_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** animals that hunt and eat other animals

5. \_\_\_ a n \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** something that is not safe

6. \_\_\_ s c \_\_\_ p \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** get away from

7. \_\_\_ a r \_\_\_ o \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** large ground squirrel

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Groundhog or Woodchuck?

by Kelly Hashway



In the article, "Groundhog or Woodchuck?", you learned many interesting facts about groundhogs.

Write a paragraph with four true facts about groundhogs. Also include one fact that is not true. Have a friend or family member read your paragraph. See if they can figure out which fact is not true.



**~ PREVIEW ~**

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

## ANSWER KEY

# Groundhog or Woodchuck?

by Kelly Hashway

1. What is the difference between a groundhog and a woodchuck? **d**
  - a. Groundhogs are larger than woodchucks.
  - b. Woodchucks climb trees, but groundhogs do not.
  - c. Groundhogs are marmots, but woodchucks are not.
  - d. **Woodchucks and groundhogs are the same animal.**

2. Complete the graphic organizer.

whistle



## ~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

bark

grind (teeth)

3. Explain how a groundhog's burrow is designed to keep the groundhog safe from predators.

**A groundhog's burrow has two to five exits so it can escape predators.**

4. Do you think a groundhog is likely to weigh more in early spring or late autumn? Explain.

**A groundhog will weigh more in the fall because it stores up fat in its body for winter hibernation. In the spring its body has used up much of the fat, so it will weigh less.**

## ANSWER KEY

# Groundhog or Woodchuck?

### Vocabulary Activity



Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. a l e r t

hint: quick to notice any danger

alert

2. c l i r

hint: c

~ **PREVIEW** ~

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

3. b u r

hint: u

4. p r e d a t o r s

hint: animals that hunt and eat other animals

predators

5. d a n g e r

hint: something that is not safe

danger

6. e s c a p e

hint: get away from

escape

7. m a r m o t

hint: large ground squirrel

marmot