

Script : "Fun facts about groundhogs !"

Groundhogs or some people call them woodchucks belong to a group of animals called rodents.

All rodents have sharp front teeth called incisors. You have incisors too. They're the four front teeth right in the front of your mouth on the top and the bottom. They keep growing longer and longer. If the groundhog didn't do something to keep its incisors from growing, like other rodents, chew or not on things like sticks and trees. This wears their teeth down and keeps them nice and short. So, if you see a groundhog chewing on wood it's probably not eating it. It's just filing down its front teeth, but groundhogs do eat lots of different things. Its diet is mostly plants like grasses, berries and nuts, but they'll also eat small insects, grubs and snails, if they can find them and when they're not out looking for food, groundhogs hide sleep and raise their families in long underground tunnels called burrows.

Burrows can be really big. Many of them are about as long as five or six cars parked end-to-end and every burrow typically has two main rooms. One is used as kind of a living room for sleeping and hanging out and the other is used only as a bathroom. Burrows are also where groundhogs hibernate.

Hibernation is kind of like a deep sleep that some animals settle into in order to make it through the winter. When groundhogs hibernate, their heart rate slows down from about 80 beats a minute to as few four or five beats a minute and during hibernation the groundhogs body temperature changes to. Groundhogs normally have a body temperature that's pretty close to yours about 37 degrees Celsius or 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, but when they're hibernating, their body temperature drops all the way down to about 5 degrees Celsius or 41 degrees Fahrenheit.