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### Take a Leap

2024 is a leap year, when February has an extra day. Take inspiration from Leap Day on Feb. 29 to "take a leap" and try something new in your life, such as joining a club or taking a class.

### Groundhog Stars

Every year, in the early hours of Feb. 2, Punxsutawney Phil is pulled from his temporary tree trunk den at Gobbler's Knob in western Pennsylvania. There, thousands gather and many more watch on TV to see if Phil sees his shadow. If he does, it's a sign of six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, spring is just around the corner.

But there are other weather-forecasting groundhogs who take the spotlight on Groundhog Day. Phil has a rival across the way in eastern Pennsylvania: Grover the Groundhog. Head to the Midwest and Buckeye Chuck carries on the tradition in the Buckeye State of Ohio.

In New York City, Charles G. Hogg, also known as Staten Island Chuck, makes his prediction from his log cabin home at the Staten Island Zoo. For over 50 years, western New York has looked to Dunkirk Dave for a seasonal projection.

Down South, folks in Raleigh, N.C., check in with Sir Walter Wally outside the city's science museum. And there's the Cajun groundhog, a nutria rodent named Pierre C. Shadeaux, who forecasts how long spring will last before the summer heat hits Louisiana.

## February 2024



### Awaiting the Season's Change

"While it is February, one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch." —Patience Strong

### Valentine's Day Treat

Conversation hearts, also known as candy hearts or Sweethearts, date back to the late 1800s when Oliver Chase and his brother Daniel created the sugary treats. They used vegetable dye to print words on what were originally scallop-shaped confections. Phrases were much longer then, with sayings such as "Married in white, you have chosen right" and "How long shall I have to wait? Please be considerate." In 1902, the famous heart shape appeared and simpler prints came out, like the familiar "Be Mine" or "Kiss Me."

# Word Search

## Category: Flowers

O R C H I D A H L I A C  
 D C G G G A A C T T S L  
 X D A H Y I R I S U H L  
 C U C R N S H F N L J E  
 M G A U N Y J F G I V B  
 S A T I C A L S L P I E  
 G E R K N O T I B G O U  
 P L X I W N L I R N L L  
 O A C E G A I N O G E B  
 P Z R G C O K Z S N T H  
 P A S T E R L D E B D J  
 Y N O E P H C D L I L Y

1. Aster
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
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19. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_

### Word Search Solution:

1. Aster
2. Azalea
3. Begonia
4. Bluebell
5. Carnation
6. Dahlia
7. Daisy
8. Iris
9. Lilac
10. Lily
11. Marigold
12. Orchid
13. Peony
14. Petunia
15. Poppy
16. Rose
17. Sunflower
18. Tulip
19. Violet
20. Zinnia

