

# YOU and the U.S.



January 2014

Happy New Year!

We hope you enjoyed the holiday season. Our first newsletter of 2014 delves into the film world, looks at the tradition of Groundhog Day, and provides information on our next federal holiday...President's Day!

Did you know...?

...*Toy Story* was the first animated film to be nominated for a Best Screenplay Academy Award® at the Oscars.

Quick Trivia

- Who was the first ever President of the USA?
- Where does Groundhog Day primarily take place?
- Which actor won the Best Actor Academy Award in 2013?

And for which film?

*More information for teachers can be found on our blog - [Education Matters!](#)*





### Film in America

As the Sundance festival nears, and the awards season is in full swing, we take a look at the movie industry in America.

- The first ever Academy Awards® (Oscars) were founded in 1927 by 36 of the most important people in the industry at that time. The first ceremony was held in 1929.
- The six major film studios in the United States are *Paramount*, *Universal*, *Warner Bros.*, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox*, *Columbia* and *Walt Disney Studios* - four of these have their base in New York with *Disney* being the only one fully based in California.
- *Gone With the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz*, both released in 1939, are two of the most famous earlier movies to be made in color. However, the first Hollywood film to be made in color was *The Toll of the Sea* in 1922. Films were made in black and white before this.
- Top earning films in the 1930's could make around \$3 million compared with the top grossing film of 2013, *Iron Man 3*, which made \$1.21 billion worldwide!
- The long awaited LEGO® film is released in February - it tells the story of Emmet, a LEGO® minifigure, who is asked to help save the world!

## Groundhog Day



Groundhog Day occurs on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The Animal is known as Punxsutawney Phil! Other places in the U.S. also celebrate this day as when the Groundhog predicts the weather for the rest of the winter period. It was acknowledged further in the 1993 feature film starring Bill Murray.

Legend says that if Punxsutawney Phil sees his own shadow, six more weeks of winter weather will follow. If he doesn't see it, spring will begin early!

Groundhog Day originates from a celebration that marked the halfway point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.



## President's Day

President's Day is a federal holiday in the U.S. It was first observed to commemorate George Washington's birthday, the very first American president. It is celebrated on the third Monday of February, and honors all presidents, past and present. The actual date falls between the two birthdays of Washington and President Abraham Lincoln.



*Quick Trivia answers: a) George Washington; b) Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania; c) Daniel Day-Lewis for "Lincoln"*

# President's Day Word Search

*Lincoln*

*Washington*

*Roosevelt*

*Kennedy*

*Johnson*

*Clinton*

*Obama*

*Bush*

*Carter*

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