

# BLIZZARDS



## THE GROUNDHOG DAY BLIZZARD

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 3, 2011

On January 31, 2011, it started to snow. A lot! Schools were closed. That's fun, right?



The Groundhog Day Blizzard covered a lot of states with snow.

But no one could play outside. The wind was blowing too hard. In a blizzard, the moving air blows snow into piles. Some snow piles are taller than a person!

Cars get stuck. The wind blows down trees. People may lose their power. They are left without heat or lights. They are very cold.

This blizzard was no fun for anyone.



Think About It

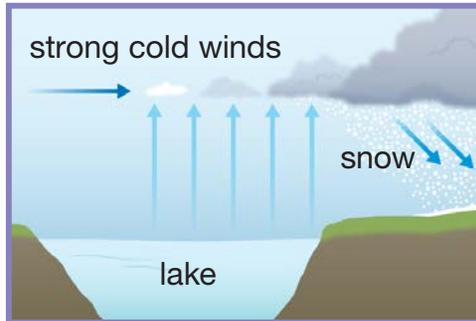
Why do you think this blizzard was called the "Groundhog Day Blizzard"?

# THE LAKE EFFECT

Blizzards often happen near lakes. This is natural. It is called the *lake effect*.

This happens when cold air moves in the direction of a lake. The wind speed is fast.

The wind picks up water from the lake. Then the wind carries the water over land. The water falls as rain or snow.



# SNOW, SNOW EVERYWHERE

Snow causes problems for cities. It falls on streets. The streets have oil on them. The snow gets *polluted*, or dirty. It is bad to put polluted snow in lakes and rivers. It hurts animals and plants. So trucks take the snow to "snow farms." There, it can melt in a safer place.



Cleaning up after a blizzard is a lot of work!



Snowplows push snow off streets. Cities spend millions of dollars to clear snow.

## Word Wise

A snowstorm is only called a *blizzard* if the wind moves at high speeds. There must be lots of snow. Also, the storm must last longer than three hours.