

TEDDY BEARS



There are many different kinds of stuffed animals. Possibly the most popular stuffed animal is the stuffed toy bear nicknamed the “teddy bear”. Have you ever wondered how these cute little bears got their name? It’s an interesting story!

In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt was on a hunting trip in Mississippi. One of the other hunters had chased a bear up a tree. He told the President to shoot it. President Roosevelt, who was known as a sportsman, refused to shoot the bear. He said it was “unsportsmanlike”. A newspaper made a cartoon about President Roosevelt’s refusal.

According to popular legend, a shopkeeper saw the cartoon, and asked the President’s permission to make stuffed bears called “Teddy’s bears”. “Teddy” was a nickname for Theodore, and although the President disliked the nickname, many people called him that.

Whether the President approved the bears named after him (or if he was even asked) is not certain. What is certain is that teddy bears have been a popular and beloved toy for at least a hundred years. Teddy bears can be found in almost every toy store. They can also be found in museums, in art shows, in collector’s trade shows, and many other places. They show no signs of leaving the hearts of children (or collectors!) any time soon.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *TEDDY BEARS*:

1. Where was President Roosevelt hunting when he refused to shoot the bear?
 - a. Washington, D.C.
 - b. Georgia
 - c. Michigan
 - d. Mississippi

2. Why did President Roosevelt refuse to shoot the bear?
 - a. because the bear was his friend
 - b. because the bear was beautiful
 - c. because it is poor sportsmanship to shoot a tied up animal
 - d. because bears are not dangerous animals

3. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - a. People collect teddy bears.
 - b. Teddy bears can be found in museums.
 - c. Teddy bears have existed for over a century.
 - d. President Roosevelt shot a bear in 1902.

4. When were the first teddy bears sold?
 - a. 2000
 - b. 1902
 - c. 1856
 - d. 1999

5. Why did the bears get called "Teddy's bears"?
 - a. because President Roosevelt hated the nickname
 - b. because that was the name of the bear
 - c. because people called the President "Teddy"
 - d. because they were stuffed

