

Name: _____

How The Teddy Bear Got Its Name

By Mikki Sadil

Have you ever had a teddy bear? Most kids have one when they are little. But do you know how that little stuffed bear got its name?

The 26th President of the United States was Theodore Roosevelt. His friends called him *Teddy* because it sounded much less formal than Theodore. When he had some free time, he liked to hunt and to be out in the woods where all kinds of wildlife lived. One day he went on a bear hunt with some friends. After three days of hunting, he and his hunting party had not found one single bear. He was very disappointed because he hadn't found a bear.



The next day, his hunting guide took his dogs back out into the woods and came across an old, slow, tired bear. The guide tied him to a tree and went back to tell the President he had found a bear for him to shoot.

President Roosevelt saw the poor old thing, and refused to shoot him. He said that it was not sporting to shoot any animal that couldn't defend itself.

When the story broke in the newspapers, a cartoonist saw it, and immediately drew a newspaper cartoon showing how the president refused to shoot an injured bear. Two shopkeepers named Rose and Morris Michtom saw the cartoon. Rose had been making and selling toy stuffed animals for years, but she had never made a stuffed bears before she saw the cartoon. Rose made two stuffed bears and Morris put them in his store window. He asked President Roosevelt for permission to call the bears *Teddy's Bears* after the President's nickname. The President loved the idea, and so did the public. Everyone in town wanted a Teddy's Bear and the shopkeepers could barely keep up with the demand.

It wasn't long before a German woman named Margaret Steiff heard about the bears, and she began developing different sized bears for her toy-making company. Over the years, more and more companies began making the bears in all different sized, shapes, colors, and styles. Soon Teddy's Bears became known all over the world as **teddy bears**, which is how we know them today.

Roosevelt went down in history as a kind and humane person and, to honor his memory, millions of stuffed animals are still named after him.

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1. When President Roosevelt's guide found a bear on a hunting trip, what did he do with it?
- a. shot it
 - b. hid it from the president
 - c. tied it to a tree
 - d. named it Teddy

2. Why wouldn't President Roosevelt shoot the bear his guide had found?

3. Who made the first stuffed bear named after Teddy Roosevelt?

4. How did Rose and Morris find out what happened on President Roosevelt's hunting trip?
- a. The hunting guide told them about it.
 - b. They saw it on a television cartoon.
 - c. They saw a newspaper cartoon about it.
 - d. Theodore Roosevelt told them about it.

5. What did Morris and Rose call their stuffed bears?

- a. Teddy Bears
- b. Teddy's bears
- c. Theodore Bears
- d. President's Bears



6. What type of story is this?
- a. non-fiction
 - b. historical fiction
 - c. science fiction
 - d. mystery

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Match the vocabulary words from the story with the correct definitions.

_____ 1. president

a. comic; drawing

_____ 2. disappointed

b. special name for a person that is used by friends

_____ 3. refused

c. leader of a country

_____ 4. permission

d. discouraged; feeling let-down

_____ 5. nickname

e. having kindness or compassion for animals or people

_____ 6. cartoon

f. to decline or deny

_____ 7. humane

g. to be allowed to do something

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In the true story, "How the Teddy Bear Got Its Name" you learned that the teddy bear was named after President Theodore Roosevelt.

A cartoonist named Clifford Berryman had drawn a picture of Roosevelt refusing to shoot an old bear that his guide had found. The cartoon is pictured below.



On a separate sheet of paper, draw another cartoon to show Rose and Morris Mitchom asking President Roosevelt for permission to name their stuffed animals Teddy's Bears. Below your cartoon write a few sentences to explain your picture.

ANSWER KEY

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1. When President Roosevelt's guide found a bear on a hunting trip, what did he do with it? **c**
- a. shot it
 - b. hid it from the president
 - c. **tied it to a tree**
 - d. named it Teddy

2. Why wouldn't President Roosevelt shoot the bear his guide had found?

The bear was old, slow, tired, and tied to a tree. Roosevelt didn't think it was sporting to shoot an animal that couldn't defend itself.

3. Who made the first stuffed bear named after Teddy Roosevelt?

Rose Michtom

4. How did Rose and Morris find out what happened on President Roosevelt's hunting trip? **c**
- a. The hunting guide told them about it.
 - b. They saw it on a television cartoon.
 - c. **They saw a newspaper cartoon about it.**
 - d. Theodore Roosevelt told them about it.

5. What did Morris and Rose call their stuffed bears? **b**

- a. Teddy Bears
- b. **Teddy's bears**
- c. Theodore Bears
- d. President's Bears



6. What type of story is this? **a**
- a. **non-fiction**
 - b. historical fiction
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ANSWER KEY

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Match the vocabulary words from the story
with the correct definitions.

c 1. president

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