

The Story of the Teddy Bear

Many of us have loved a teddy bear. Maybe we've even had more than one very special "teddy" in our lives. Here is the real story of how the teddy bear sprang into our hearts.

Over 100 years ago President Theodore Roosevelt went on a bear hunt. He enjoyed nature and being out in the woods where animals lived. Because he was the President of the United States, the people organizing the hunt wanted to make sure the hunt was successful.

Holt Collier, the guide, and his hunting dogs found a bear. The dogs and guide followed the bear to a watering hole. The dogs attacked the bear and the bear injured one of the dogs. The guide hit the bear with his gun, tied the bear to a tree and called for the President. Here was a bear for him to shoot!

President Roosevelt looked at the poor old bear and said "no!" No one would shoot this bear for sport. That would not be right.

A political cartoonist by the name of Clifford Berryman heard this story. A political cartoonist draws about current events in the news. Mr. Berryman drew a cartoon showing how President Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear while hunting in Mississippi.

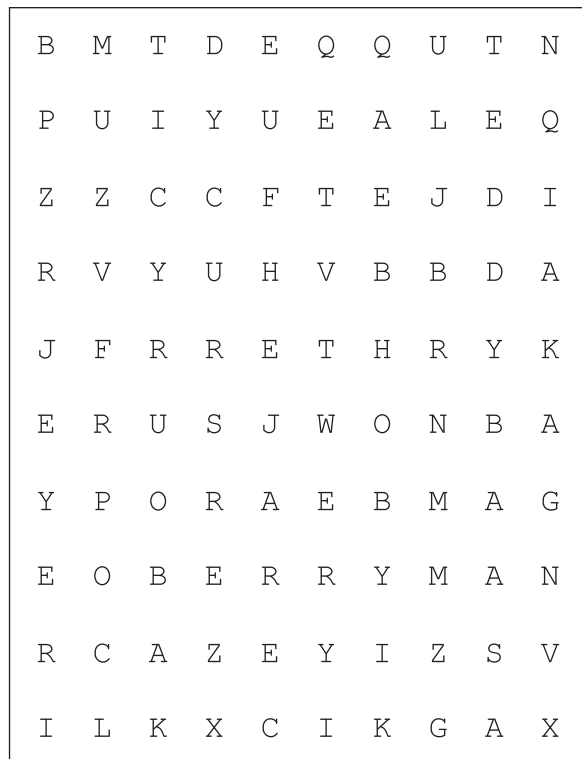
The first cartoon that was printed showed President Roosevelt in the front. In the back is the guide with a bear tied on a leash, with the guide and bear about the same size, suggesting a grown bear. The cartoon that appeared later in other papers was redrawn with the bear smaller than the guide. The bear is shaking with fear. This cute bear cub began to appear in other cartoons which Clifford Berryman drew throughout Theodore Roosevelt's career.

So that is how a bear became connected to the name of President Theodore Roosevelt.

But where do toy "teddy bears" come from?

After these famous cartoons appeared in the papers, a shopkeeper, Morris Michtom, took two stuffed toy bears which his wife had made and put them in his shop window. He had an idea. Mr. Michtom asked for permission from President Theodore Roosevelt to call these toy bears "Teddy's bears."

The phrase caught on. Now toy bears are often called teddy bears!



Hey Kids! Can you help Teddy the Bear find all these words?

Teddy Bear
Roosevelt
Berryman
Furry
Cub
Michtom

