

# “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 came to be.

In October of 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt went on a bear hunt. He was an avid outdoorsman and big game hunter. Because he was President of the United States, the people organizing the hunt wanted to make sure that the hunt was successful and that the President would get his bear to add to his trophy room.

**But**, after 3 days of walking and climbing and riding, no bears were found. Now what? The President’s bear hunt would be a failure!

**On the fourth day**, the hunt guide and his hunting dogs finally found a bear, an old and sickly bear. The dogs and the guide tracked the bear for quite a distance until the bear was very tired. The dogs attacked and injured the old bear. The guides tied the bear to a tree and sent 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.” However, the bear was injured and suffering. President Roosevelt ordered that the bear be put down to end its pain.

**Reporters** along on the hunt reported this event. A political cartoonist, Clifford Berryman, heard about the story, and drew a cartoon showing how President Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear while hunting in Mississippi.



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

**After** this famous cartoon appeared in the papers, a shopkeeper, Morris Michtom, took two stuffed toy bears that 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.**” This store eventually became the Ideal Novelty and Toy Company.

**The phrase caught on. Even today, 100 years later, stuffed bears are called Teddy Bears.**



**David Markovitz brings Theodore Roosevelt Back to Life**  
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