

Name: _____

Date: _____

History of the Teddy Bear

Have you every wondered where these cute little teddy bears come from? They were named for President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902. President Roosevelt was on a hunting trip in Mississippi when members of the hunting party caught a black bear and tied him to a tree. President Roosevelt was called to the area to shoot the bear, which he refused to do and said it was unsportsmanlike and showed poor manners.

The Washington Post newspaper ran a cartoon showing the President refusing to shoot the bear and people all over America saw the cartoon. Morris Michtom, a shopkeeper in Brooklyn, New York placed two toy bears in the window of his shop. Mr. Michtom requested permission from the President to call them "Teddy Bears". The sweet little bears with shiny button eyes were a delight with children everywhere. The Teddy Bears were made by Mr. Michtom's wife. Mr. Michtom formed a new business called the Ideal Novelty and Toy Corporation.

Today, Teddy Bears are treasured toys of children all over the world. They are also collected by people and many are displayed in museums. Teddy Bears are sold by many companies and you can find them in almost any toy store, dressed in costumes or with a ribbon around the neck.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. 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

2. Who sold the first Teddy Bears?
 - a. Theodore Roosevelt
 - b. Mr. Michtom
 - c. Sears
 - d. President Clinton

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

4. In what year was the first Teddy Bear sold?
 - a. 2000
 - b. 1902
 - c. 1856
 - d. 1999

5. In what state was the first Teddy Bear sold?
 - a. California
 - b. Montana
 - c. New York
 - d. Alabama

6. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - a. People collect Teddy Bears.
 - b. Teddy Bears can be found in museums.
 - c. The first Teddy Bear was made by Mr. Mitchtom's wife.
 - d. President Roosevelt shot the black bear in 1902.

7. How many Teddy Bears were made by Mrs. Mitchtom and placed in the window of their shop?
 - a. seven
 - b. six
 - c. two
 - d. five

8. What did Mr. Mitchtom do after he sold the Teddy Bears in 1902?
 - a. moved to Florida
 - b. became President
 - c. drew cartoons
 - d. began a toy company

WRITE A PARAGRAPH ABOUT WHY YOU THINK TEDDY BEARS ARE SO SPECIAL. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TEDDY BEAR? CAN YOU DESCRIBE IT HERE?
