



The Story of

TEDDY BEARS

by Mae Respicio

Table of Contents

History of Teddy Bears.....	4
Teddy Bears Then and Now	10
How Teddy Bears Are Made	12
How Teddy Bears Get to Stores	24
Glossary	30
Read More	31
Internet Sites	31
Index	32
About the Author	32

Words in **bold** appear in the glossary.

History of Teddy Bears

People of all ages love teddy bears. They are cute. They are cuddly. They bring joy.

Teddy bears are so loved that almost half of the adults in America still have their teddy bears from childhood. But how did teddy bears begin?



The teddy bear began in an unlikely way. It began with a president! Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th president of the United States. His nickname was “Teddy.”

In 1902, the president went on a hunting trip. He refused to shoot a bear. A newspaper published a cartoon about it.





Teddy Roosevelt

To honor him, Morris and Rose Michtom made a stuffed bear. They asked if they could use his nickname. He agreed! They put the stuffed bear in a window with a sign that said *Teddy's Bear*. The Michtoms started a company to make toys and stuffed bears.

Around that time in Germany, Richard Steiff designed a stuffed bear. He made it out of **mohair**. His aunt, Margarete Steiff, owned a toy company. It sold felt toys. She added the stuffed bear to her store.



A teddy bear with the official Steiff label and button on its ear



At first, the product was not popular. But things changed after they shared it at a toy fair in Germany. An American ordered many to sell in the U.S. By 1907, a million had been made!

Teddy Bears Then and Now

Early teddy bears were made by hand. Their eyes were made with buttons or glass. The problem? The parts were not safe. The eyes pulled off too easily.



A woman makes a teddy bear
in the early 1900s.