

NATIONAL TEDDY BEAR DAY

9 September 2021

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On September 9th, National Teddy Bear Day honours the history of one of childhood's favourite toys. We have all had a special cuddly teddy as a child. Some of us still have our teddy bear from our childhood. No matter what kind of teddy bear you had, the day is a perfect time to celebrate your childhood friend!

In 1902, American President Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear cub while hunting in Mississippi. The incident made national news. Clifford Berryman published a cartoon of the event in the Washington Post on November 16th, 1902, and the caricature became an instant classic.

The Berryman cartoon of Teddy Roosevelt and the cub inspired New York store owner Morris Michtom. He created a new toy and even had a name in mind. Michtom wrote President Roosevelt to ask permission to name the new toy a "Teddy Bear."

A teddy bear does not depend on mechanics to give him the semblance of life. He is loved – and therefore, he lives. ~ Pam Brown

HOW TO OBSERVE – National Teddy Bear Day

Share some of your favourite Teddy Bear characters from a time gone by. Are they recent interpretations of the lovable creature? Or do you have an affinity for the classic Teddy Bear? Other ways to celebrate include:

- Giving a Teddy Bear to someone you love.
- Donate Teddy Bears to a local organization for children.



This cartoon by Clifford Berryman's published in a 1902 Washington Post inspired the Teddy bear.