

## **The Teddy Bear**

Have you ever wondered where the cute little teddy bears came 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. He refused to shoot the bear and said it was not good sportsmanship and showed poor manners. The bear was let loose.

The Washington Post newspaper ran a cartoon showing the President refusing to shoot the bear. This cartoon was published in other newspapers all over the United States. People all over America saw the cartoon. People were happy that the bear lived. President Roosevelt became famous for saving the bear.

After a time, a shopkeeper in New York placed two toy bears in the window of his shop. His wife made the bears for President Roosevelt. The shopkeeper requested permission from the President to call them "Teddy Bears." The sweet little bears were popular with children everywhere. The shopkeeper formed a new toy company, Ideal Toys, to sell his bears. This toy company became one of the first large toy companies in the United States.

Today, Teddy Bears are treasured toys of children all over the world. They are also collected by people of all ages. Many are displayed in museums. Teddy bears are often dressed in costumes or sometimes with a ribbon around their necks. Teddy Bears are made and sold by many companies. You can find them in almost any toy store or gift shop.

## Yellowstone

Yellowstone was the first national park named by the United States government. In 1872, more than two million acres were set aside for the park. The new park covered land in the states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. This year, Yellowstone is 129 years old.

Before Yellowstone became a park, settlers pushed into the wilderness near Yellowstone. They killed off many of the animals. They cleared the land for farming. More people followed. More animals, grasslands, and trees were destroyed. The park was established to keep the land in its natural condition. The U.S. government decided that the park should be a safe place for animals such as bison, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, coyotes, and bears. These animals roam freely through the park today.

People love to visit this fun place. Yellowstone has a variety of attractions such as geysers and hot springs. This is the only place on earth with so many of these natural wonders. One of the most famous sights is a geyser that erupts every 30 to 60 minutes. It spits boiling water and steam about 150 feet into the air. The largest active geyser in the world is Steamboat Geyser. It was asleep for nine years. Then everyone was surprised. Steamboat erupted! It shot hot water up to 500 feet high.

Yellowstone has a major mountain range, the Rocky Mountains. Volcanoes made this mountain range. The Continental Divide in the mountain range crosses the park. The Continental Divide is important. It divides the rivers that flow east from the waters that flow west.

Yellowstone National Park has so many things to see. Visitors are never disappointed.

## Gum

Sometimes things are discovered by accident. For example, chewing gum was accidentally discovered in the 1860's by workers in the United States. A company was searching for materials to use as rubber when they found chicle. The basic material used for the first chewing gum was chicle. Chicle comes from a tree that grows in Central America. A company sweetened the chicle with sugar and corn syrup. Then they added color and other flavors. Because chicle was expensive and hard to get, a substitute gum was invented.

The new man-made gum is made in the same way as the chicle chewing gum. Once the mixture is made, it is heated and then cooled. Then the gum mixture is put on a large belt, rolled to the right thickness, cut, wrapped, and packaged. Bubble gum is made the same way. The difference is, rubber latex is added to the mixture to give it more strength. This helps the gum stretch when making bubbles.

The first bubble gum was accidentally created by W.E. Diemer in 1928. He worked for the Fleer Gum Corporation. He discovered how to make bubble gum while testing gum recipes. After he made the first bubble gum, "Dubble Bubble," he taught others how to blow bubbles. This included the salesmen at the gum corporation.

W.E. Diemer, the man who first invented bubble gum, died in 1998. He was 93 years old. In his later years, he invited kids into his home to talk about his invention. His wife told a New York newspaper, "He would say to me, 'I've done something with my life. I've made kids happy around the world.'"