

LQ: I wonder why and when teddy bears were first made?



Do you have a teddy bear?

What material do you think teddies are made of?

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Once upon a time, (over 100 years ago!) there was a famous American President called Theodore Roosevelt. His friends called him Teddy.



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He made real bears famous because he refused to shoot one. He was teased about this kindness and somebody drew a cartoon as a joke.

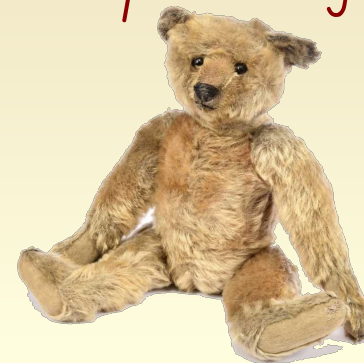


Factories started making toy bears. They called them Teddy's Bears which was later shortened to teddy bear.

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At around the same time, a family in Germany also began to make bear toys which were based on sketches of real bears made by the nephew of a seamstress called Margaret Steiff. These were known as Steiff Bears.



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At first bears were jointed and stuffed with wood shavings which meant they weren't very soft or cuddly!

They were covered in mohair which is from a goat and their eyes were buttons to begin with and later replaced by glass.

These days, not all bears are jointed and different man made materials are used to cover and stuff them.

What do you think their eyes are made of now?



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More than 100 years later, teddy bears are still a popular toy.

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Sort into old and
new.



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Challenge!
*Can you drag these teddies
and put them in order?*

*What helped
you to work
it out?*



You might like to watch this video about how teddies are made today (teddy part begins at 6m38s)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b081m9q1/maddies-do-you-know-series-1-21-magnets-and-teddy-bears>

