

# LESSON 7 - TEDDY ROOSEVELT

# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

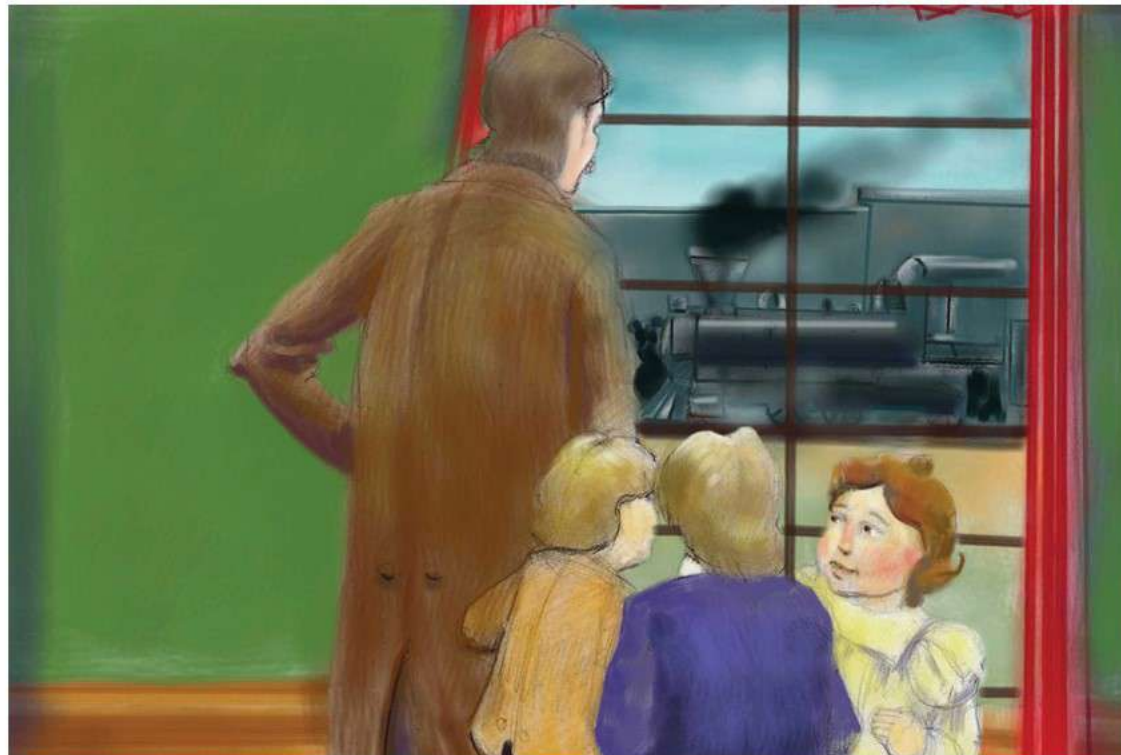
Today we know him as Teddy Roosevelt, the twenty-sixth president of the United States. But when he was young, his mother called him "Theodore" when she introduced him to her friends. His friends called him "T. R." and his father called him "Teedie"—especially when he wanted his son to remember something important. *His given name was Theodore, but he had a lot of nicknames, didn't he? Another nickname for the name Theodore is Teddy.* "Teedie," he might say, "there is nothing more important than a good education." *An education is what someone has learned.* And Teddy would listen. Teddy Roosevelt always listened to what his father said.



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

*Describe what you see in the picture.*

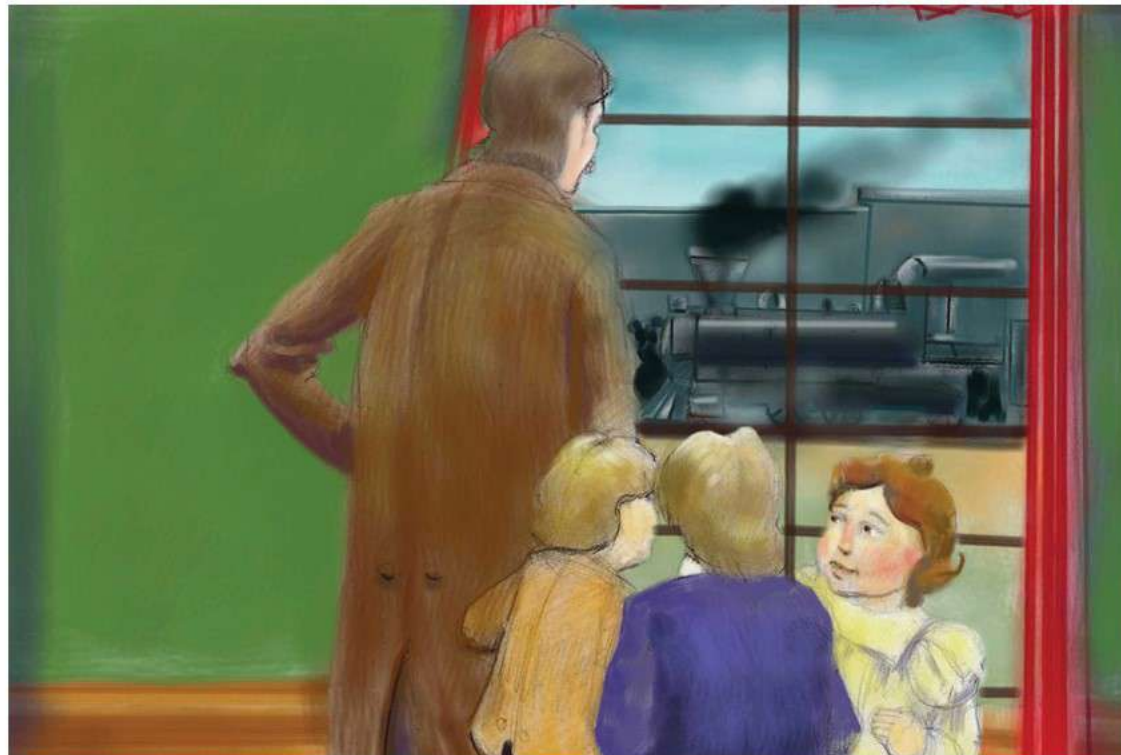
When he was six years old, Teddy, his younger brother, and a friend were visiting their grandparents in New York City, but one day the children did not play as they usually did. On this day they stood by a window with Teddy's father and watched as a train rolled slowly by. Mr. Roosevelt told the children, "Inside that train is Abraham Lincoln, the president of the United States."





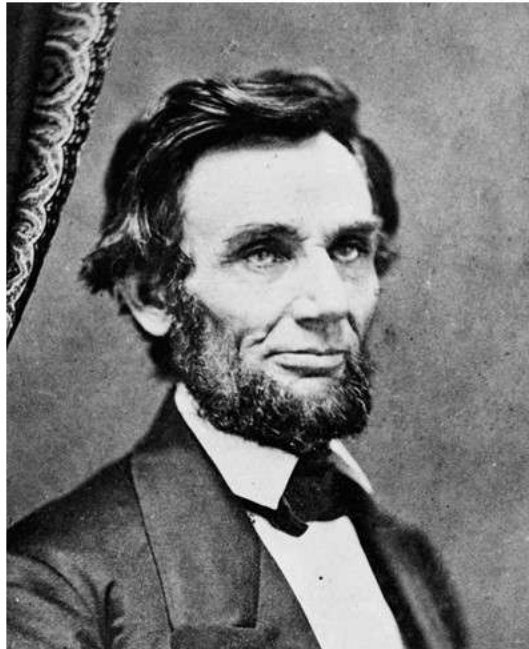
# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

President Lincoln had died, and the train was taking him back to his home state for his funeral. *A funeral is when people gather to honor someone who has died.* "A lot of people loved Abraham Lincoln," Mr. Roosevelt continued, "and thought he was a very good man." *What is something good that Abraham Lincoln did?* People were sorry that President Lincoln died. They gathered along the train tracks to show how much they would miss him.



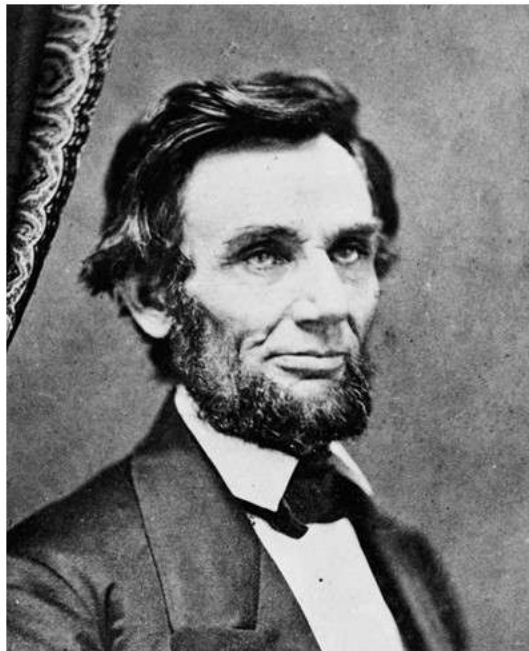
# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Teddy thought about this for a minute and then asked his father, "Do you think President Lincoln was a good man, Father?" Teddy greatly admired his father, so he wanted to know how he felt about the president.



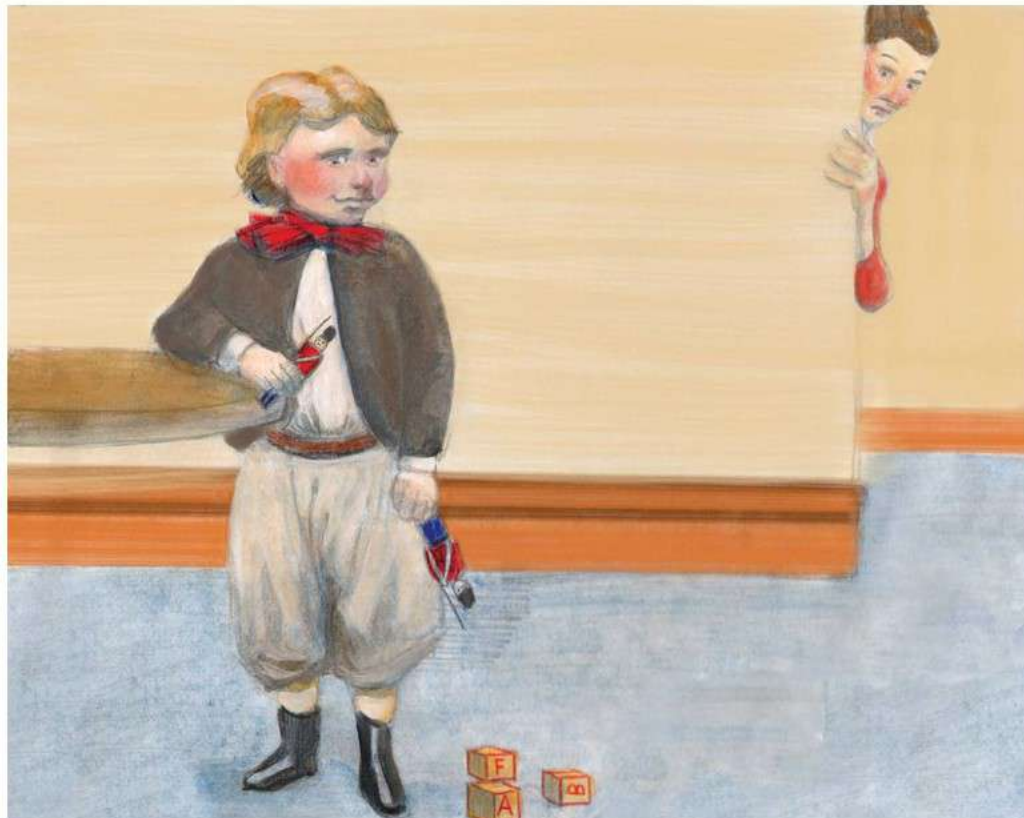
# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Mr. Roosevelt replied, "I think Abraham Lincoln was a great man and a great president." He continued, "A great president can help a lot of people and do a lot of good things. Abraham Lincoln came from a poor family, but he worked hard. He was smart and kind. So many people thought highly of him that he was elected president." Mr. Roosevelt told Teddy that Abraham Lincoln was a perfect example of why he should not judge *or form an opinion about* someone by the kind of clothes they wear or whether they live in a fancy part of town. He said, "Judge them instead by what they do and why."



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

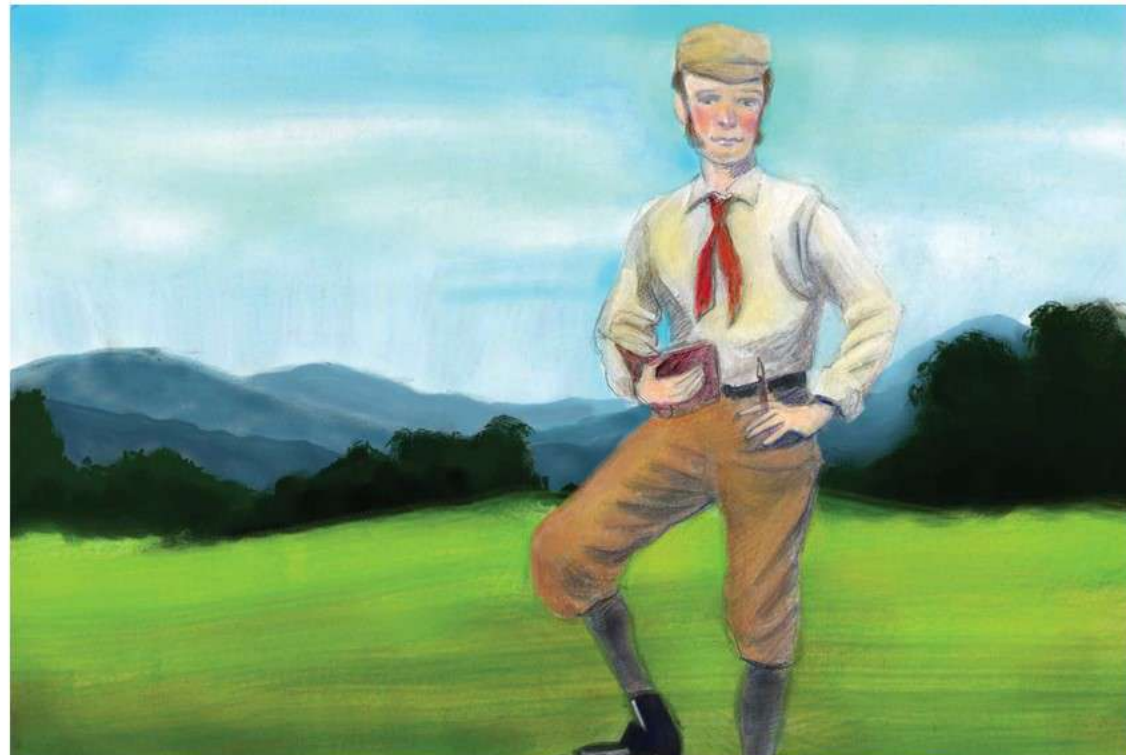
Teddy Roosevelt had asthma, a medical condition that made it hard for him to breathe. Because of his illness, he rarely got out when he was young to meet different kinds of people in different parts of town. His father told his son that he shouldn't let his health issue keep him from living an active life. He said, "Build up your body and don't be afraid to push it too hard."





# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

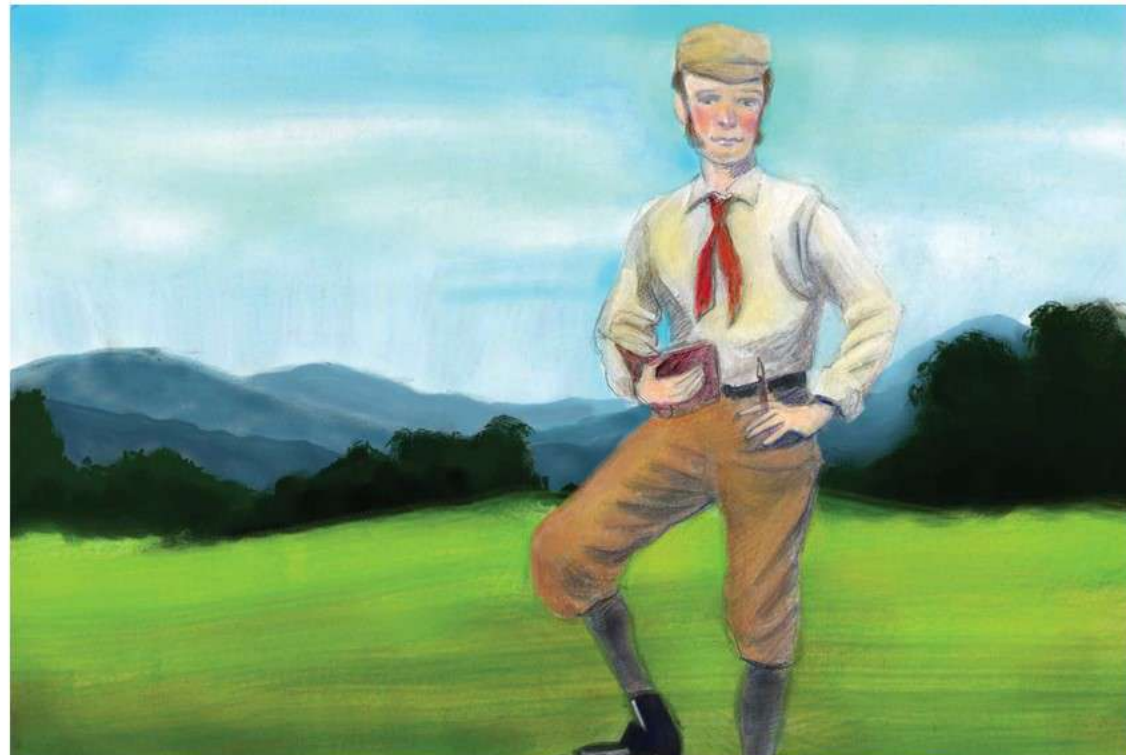
Once again, Teddy listened to his father. He worked very hard to build up his body. He spent more time outdoors, climbing mountains, hiking for miles, and fishing and hunting. Teddy built up his mind, too. He loved the outdoors and became an expert in the subjects of wild animals, birds, and fish. *An expert is someone who knows a lot about a subject.*





# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

When he was seventeen, Teddy went to college and received the fine education his father had talked about. Throughout his life, he made sure to give his mind as much exercise as he gave his body. Teddy wrote more than twenty books and many, many newspaper and magazine articles. Teddy remembered the things his father taught him. He never forgot what his father had taught him that day when President Lincoln went by.



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Two months after he finished college, on his twenty-second birthday, Teddy married a young woman named Alice Lee, and they had a little girl. They named her Alice, too. Teddy's wife, Alice, died when little Alice was still a baby, but a few years later Teddy got married again to a friend named Edith Carow [/kaer\*oe/].



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

As a young man with a family, Teddy had to decide what to do with his life. He told himself, "My father was right. I must use every day I have in this world to do important things." *The word right means correct.*

Teddy decided to work in government so he could help people. He did not know it then, but he himself would one day become president of the United States.





# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Teddy and his new wife, Edith, had five children together, giving Teddy's daughter Alice some sisters and brothers. Teddy often led the children outdoors to explore the woods or play on the lawn.

*Explore means to learn more about a place.* He taught them about birds, animals, and plants, and played lively games with them. Once, when another woman was visiting his wife, they heard laughter outside. Looking out the window, they saw Teddy and the children playing dress-up and running across the lawn. Edith Roosevelt smiled and told her friend, "I have no trouble controlling the children, but controlling Theodore is impossible." *His wife also called him "Theodore," like his mother did.*





# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

In those days in New York, making sure that the government was doing a good job was a tough business. Because so many dishonest people worked in government, Teddy's friends told him that nice people like him did not get involved. Teddy said, "Things will get better only when good people make them so." To start, he became the head of the New York City Police Department. He toured the streets to make sure police officers were doing their jobs fairly and honestly.



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

A few years later, the president of the United States, William McKinley, made Teddy Roosevelt the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Navy. Teddy felt the United States needed a strong navy to show the world that it was a powerful country.



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Later, Teddy left his job with the navy and went West. He went to lead cowboys and other people from the West. They joined the army together, and other soldiers began calling them the "Rough Riders." Teddy led his Rough Riders in battle and was so brave that when he returned home, people called him a hero. They elected him governor of the state of New York. *A governor is the elected leader of a state.* As governor, he helped make many new laws to help everyone—rich and poor, old and young, male and female.



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Later, Teddy Roosevelt became vice president of the United States. Six months after he became vice president, President McKinley died. At age forty-two, Theodore Roosevelt became the twenty-sixth president of the United States. *If the president of the United States dies, the vice president becomes president.* He is the youngest man to ever serve as president.





# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

As president, Roosevelt set out to help working people and poor people who had to pay too much for things they bought. President Roosevelt also tried to be a peacemaker. People said, "Teddy wants America to be strong enough to win wars, but he thinks peaceful talking is better." As he put it himself, "Speak softly, but carry a big stick."



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Busy as he was, President Roosevelt still found time for the outdoor activities he loved as a child. He once said, "All Americans deserve clean air, clean water, and beautiful outdoor spaces to explore. We should set aside special places now, while they are still natural and wild, so our children and grandchildren may know the joy of the outdoors." President Roosevelt believed one of the most important things a president could do was to keep making the country a better place. He asked, "What will happen [if one day] our forests are gone?"



# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Under President Roosevelt's direction, the government created huge parks and protected forests, lakes, and rivers to keep them clean and natural. He set up special parts of the government to protect America's lakes and rivers, and to guard the wild creatures. This effort was called "conserving," or saving, nature. Today, we still enjoy the parks and wild places President Roosevelt saved. *Theodore Roosevelt conserved parks and places in nature for people to enjoy, where no one could build, or cut down trees.*





# TEDDY ROOSEVELT

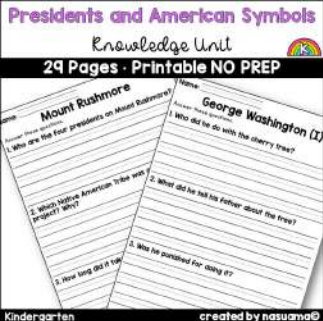
Teddy Roosevelt helped in another way, too. Once, while he and some friends were out hunting, President Roosevelt showed compassion by refusing to kill a black bear.

When people heard this story, they wrote about it in the newspapers. Some people in New York City who sold toys began selling stuffed toy bears. They called them "teddy bears" in honor of President Roosevelt.

So, Teddy Roosevelt conserved nature for us to enjoy the outdoors. And he left us with teddy bears to hug indoors. No wonder we say, "There was a great president!"

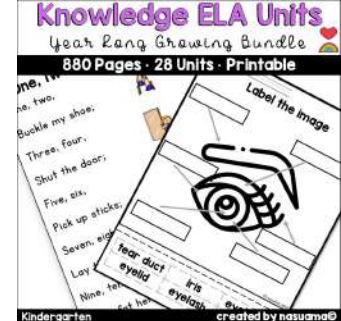






# PRESIDENTS AND AMERICAN SYMBOLS

## BUNDLE



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Teddy Roosevelt**

Answer these questions.

1. What did Roosevelt enjoy while being outdoors?

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2. What did he do as president so important for the environment?

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## DO YOU NEED EXTRA ACTIVITIES?

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