

Name:

Date:

Theodore Roosevelt: Bold Leadership

Theodore Roosevelt was born in New York City in 1858. As a child, he was often sick and had asthma, which made breathing difficult. Instead of giving up, Theodore worked to make his body stronger through exercise and outdoor activities. He loved reading about nature, animals, history, and adventure. These interests helped shape the energetic leader he later became.

Roosevelt entered politics as a young man and held several public offices. During the Spanish-American War, he became famous for leading a volunteer cavalry group called the Rough Riders. Their actions in Cuba made Roosevelt a national hero. He later became governor of New York and then vice president of the United States.

In 1901, President William McKinley was assassinated, and Roosevelt became president at age 42. He was the youngest person ever to become U.S. president. Roosevelt believed the government should protect ordinary people and make sure powerful businesses acted fairly. His program, called the Square Deal, focused on fairness for workers, consumers, and businesses.

Roosevelt also cared deeply about nature. As president, he protected millions of acres of forests,



parks, and wildlife areas. He created national forests, bird reserves, and other protected lands so future generations could enjoy them. His conservation work became an important part of his legacy.

Roosevelt was known for his confidence, energy, and willingness to take action. He helped negotiate an end to the Russo-Japanese War and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906. He also supported construction of the Panama Canal, which made travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans faster. Theodore Roosevelt left office in 1909, but his ideas about leadership, fairness, and conservation continued to influence the nation for many years. Americans admired his adventurous spirit. Even after his presidency, he remained active in public affairs and spoke about important national issues.

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Multiple Choice

1. What health problem did Theodore Roosevelt have as a child?
 - A. Asthma
 - B. Blindness
 - C. A broken leg
 - D. Hearing loss
2. What group did Roosevelt lead during the Spanish-American War?
 - A. The Green Berets
 - B. The Rough Riders
 - C. The Minutemen
 - D. The Buffalo Soldiers
3. How old was Roosevelt when he became president?
 - A. 35
 - B. 42
 - C. 50
 - D. 58
4. What was the name of Roosevelt's program that focused on fairness?
 - A. The New Deal
 - B. The Fair Plan
 - C. The Square Deal
 - D. The Great Society
5. Why did Roosevelt protect forests, parks, and wildlife areas?
 - A. To build more cities
 - B. To preserve nature for future generations
 - C. To create military bases
 - D. To increase factory space

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Comprehension Questions

6. How did Roosevelt respond to being sickly as a child?

7. Why did Roosevelt become famous during the Spanish-American War?

8. What did the Square Deal try to accomplish?

9. Name two ways Roosevelt helped protect nature.

10. What are two examples from the passage that show Roosevelt was an active leader?

ANSWER KEY

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ANSWER KEY**Comprehension Questions**

6. How did Roosevelt respond to being sickly as a child?

He exercised and spent time doing outdoor activities to make his body stronger.

7. Why did Roosevelt become famous during the Spanish-American War?

He became famous for leading the Rough Riders, a volunteer cavalry group, during the war in Cuba.

8. What did the Square Deal try to accomplish?

The Square Deal aimed to promote fairness for workers, consumers, and businesses and to control unfair practices by powerful companies.

9. Name two ways Roosevelt helped protect nature.

Answers may include: he protected millions of acres of land, created national forests, established bird reserves, and protected parks and wildlife areas.

10. What are two examples from the passage that show Roosevelt was an active leader?

Answers may include: he led the Rough Riders, challenged powerful businesses, protected public lands, helped negotiate an end to the Russo-Japanese War, or supported construction of the Panama Canal.