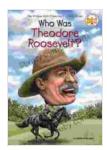
# Who Was Theodore Roosevelt? Who Was?: **Meet Amazing People from History**



## Who Was Theodore Roosevelt? (Who Was?)

by Michael Burgan





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#### The Man Who Embodied the American Spirit

Theodore Roosevelt was a larger-than-life figure who left an indelible mark on American history. He was a man of action, adventure, and vision, and his legacy continues to inspire people today.

Roosevelt was born in New York City in 1858. He was a sickly child, but he overcame his physical limitations to become a vigorous and athletic man. He was also a voracious reader and an excellent student.

After graduating from Harvard University, Roosevelt worked as a cowboy in the Dakota Territory. This experience gave him a firsthand understanding of the American West and its people.

In 1881, Roosevelt returned to New York and entered politics. He served in the New York State Assembly and as a U.S. Civil Service Commissioner. In 1895, he became police commissioner of New York City.

As police commissioner, Roosevelt took on the powerful political machine that controlled the city. He cracked down on corruption and made the police force more efficient. His efforts earned him the respect of many New Yorkers. In 1897, Roosevelt was appointed assistant secretary of the Navy. In this role, he helped to prepare the Navy for the Spanish-American War.

When the war broke out in 1898, Roosevelt resigned from his post and formed a volunteer cavalry regiment known as the Rough Riders. The Rough Riders fought in Cuba and helped to win the war.

Roosevelt's heroism during the war made him a national hero. In 1898, he was elected governor of New York. As governor, he continued to fight corruption and promote progressive policies.

In 1901, Roosevelt became president of the United States after the assassination of William McKinley. He was the youngest man ever to hold the office.

As president, Roosevelt pushed for a range of reforms, including antitrust legislation, conservation, and labor reform. He also played a key role in the construction of the Panama Canal.

Roosevelt's foreign policy was based on the idea of "big stick diplomacy." He believed that the United States should be willing to use military force to protect its interests.

Roosevelt's presidency was a time of great change and progress for the United States. He left office in 1909, but he remained active in politics and public life until his death in 1919.

Theodore Roosevelt was a complex and contradictory figure. He was a man of great ambition and energy, but he also had a deep sense of compassion and idealism. He was a strong believer in the American dream, and he worked tirelessly to make it a reality for all Americans.

#### Legacy

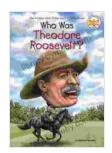
Theodore Roosevelt's legacy is one of leadership, courage, and vision. He was a man who believed in the power of the individual to make a difference in the world.

Roosevelt's accomplishments are many and varied. He was a successful politician, a military hero, a conservationist, and a Nobel Peace Prize winner. But perhaps his greatest legacy is his example of how one person can make a positive impact on the world.

Theodore Roosevelt was a true American hero. He was a man who lived his life to the fullest and who made a lasting contribution to his country and the world.

### **Additional Resources**

\* [Theodore Roosevelt Association](https://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/) \*
[Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University]
(https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/) \* [Theodore Roosevelt National Park](https://www.nps.gov/thro/index.htm)



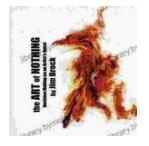
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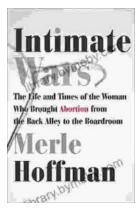
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