Theodore Roosevelt was our 26th president, and the fourth one from New York. He created the first national parks.

Take a Closer Look

• What details tell us that Theodore was curious about animals as a kid? Underline one.

• Number three things Theodore did as president to protect nature.

Theodore Roosevelt knew spaces for animals and plants were important. Thank you, President Roosevelt, for making our national parks!

• How can you keep nature clean and safe for wildlife?
  _______________________
  _______________________
  _______________________

New York is a state in the northeast United States.
**All About Animals**

Theodore Roosevelt was born in New York City, NY in 1858. Theodore was always curious about animals. When he was young, he loved to look at a book filled with animals from Africa. He also loved playing with real animals. Once, he tipped his hat on a streetcar to say hello to someone. Frogs leaped out!

**Learning on the Job**

When Theodore was a young man, he had jobs in many places. He raised cattle on a ranch in the Midwest. He was a leader of the New York City Police Department. He fought in a war in Cuba riding horses. He later became vice president of the United States. Theodore then became president. He was 42 years old - the youngest U.S. president ever!

**Protecting Nature**

Theodore did a lot when he was president. He had seen different places in his life. He knew nature was important. He protected nature by creating 150 national forests, five national parks, and 51 bird reserves. In these places, animals and plants had space to live and grow. Cities and factories couldn’t be built there. These important spaces are still protected today.

**Amazing Fact!**

On a hunting trip, Theodore refused to shoot a bear. A toy maker made a stuffed bear and called it “Teddy’s Bear.” That was the beginning of teddy bears!