Work with a partner to respond to these questions. Use other sheets of paper for your responses.

1. What do you know about Theodore Roosevelt? Create a two-column chart. Column one will be for the things the two of you are confident you know. The second column will be for things you think you know but about which you feel a degree of uncertainty.

2. Read the letter Teddy Roosevelt wrote to his young son. Write out the letter in your own hand so that you have an easy to read copy of the letter.

3. Read the back of the document which contains the illustrated story he included with his letter. What new facts and impressions have you gained about Theodore Roosevelt from the letter and story?

4. Read the additional information about Roosevelt that is included in your packet.

5. Find a computer and go to The Library of Congress [http://www.loc.gov/](http://www.loc.gov/). Select American Memory. Type Theodore Roosevelt in the search box (upper right). Browse through at least five of the references. Using the two column chart from #1 add new information.

6. Select some of the interesting information you have acquired to write a 5-paragraph article about Roosevelt, the man. Make illustrations if appropriate.
Visual Literacy

Expanding on History

The following is from the Library of Congress – American Memory Collection:

**Letter with illustrated fable, Theodore Roosevelt to Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 11 July 1890. (Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Papers)**

**Theodore Roosevelt** (1858-1919), twenty-sixth president of the United States (1901-09), strived for a life that embodied his ideal of assertive masculinity. At various times, he was an outdoor sportsman, explorer, rancher, and soldier as well as being an aggressive political leader and writer on historical and public affairs. While the American people had ample opportunity to observe Roosevelt's public side, he kept his personal relationships private. The letter exhibited here shows an aspect of Roosevelt's life not often on public display--his role as devoted father to his six children.

In 1889 President Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901) appointed Roosevelt to the United States Civil Service Commission. In reaction to the assassination of President James A. Garfield (1831-1881) by a disgruntled job seeker, the commission had been created in 1883 to reduce patronage politics in federal employment. Roosevelt's appointment injected considerable energy and attracted much publicity to the commission's activities. During his six years with the commission, Roosevelt established a residence in the nation's capital, but he and his family also spent time during Washington's sweltering summers at Sagamore Hill, their Oyster Bay, New York, residence. This letter comes from a period when Roosevelt's duties kept him in Washington while his family summered at Sagamore Hill.

From Washington, D.C., Roosevelt sent this letter to be read to his young son, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (1887-1944), who at less than three years of age, could not yet read. In contrast with Roosevelt's tough, determinedly manly public image, in this letter we see the future president as a tender father who addresses his toddler son in childish language and promises to take him to play in the barn and on the beach. He entertains his young son with an illustrated fable about a bear chasing a pony and a cow, which have strayed too far from the barn. The animals race safely home and "make up their minds they will never run away again."

In 1903 a new toy, a soft stuffed bear cub, was introduced on the market and quickly became a favorite of young children. Coincidentally, a cartoon appeared depicting President "Teddy" Roosevelt, known as an enthusiastic game hunter, sparing the life of a cute bear cub. The resemblance of the cartoon cub and the stuffed toy bears provoked many to call the toys "Teddy's bears," which quickly evolved into the term "Teddy bear." This letter shows that perhaps naming these huggable bears after Theodore Roosevelt was, indeed, appropriate.

In addition to President Roosevelt's papers, the Manuscript Division holds the papers of three of his children: Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Kermit Roosevelt, and Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

*John E. Haynes, Manuscript Division*