Winnie The Pooh - Essential Facts

History

• Winnie the Pooh was brought to life on Christmas Eve in 1925 when the first Pooh story, written by AA Milne, was published in the London Evening News. The piece was based on a bedtime story read by AA Milne to his son, Christopher Robin.

• The first Winnie the Pooh book, simply named *Winnie the Pooh*, was published in October 1926. *Now We Are Six* followed in 1927 and *House at Pooh Corner* was published in 1928.

• After 80 years of friendship and adventure, Winnie the Pooh has become a worldwide favourite with mothers and children of all ages, with near universal familiarity among mothers with children aged 2-5.

• The characters in AA Milne’s stories are based on toys once owned by his son. The original stuffed toys are now kept in New York Public Library.

• Eeyore was a Christmas present to Christopher Milne - the stuffed animal’s neck had lost its stiffening over time taking on a morose appearance, which served as inspiration for AA Milne’s character.

• On 4th February 1966, Disney artists first animated Pooh, for *Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree*, a special cartoon featurette and the studio's first animated treatment of the famous children's books by Milne. – Eeyore first appeared in *Winnie the Pooh And A Day for Eeyore* (1983)

• Tigger and Piglet were first animated in 1968 in Disney's *Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day*.

• AA Milne named Winnie the Pooh after a Canadian bear that Milne's son had seen at London Zoo (Winnie) and a swan near the family's country home (Pooh).

• Winnie the Pooh is also called Pooh, or Pooh Bear, but never, ever, just Winnie.

• The inspiration for Hundred Acre Wood comes from Ashdown Forest in Sussex, which was near AA Milne's country home Cotchford Farm.
About Winnie the Pooh

- Pooh and his friends live in the Hundred Acre Wood where they enjoy friendship, warmth and compassion as well as adventure!

- Pooh endlessly craves ‘smackerel’ of ‘hunny’ to soothe that insatiable ‘rumbly in his tumblly.’

- Pooh’s closest friends include Tigger, Piglet and Eyore.

Winnie the Pooh – The Global Business

- Winnie the Pooh entertainment and products can be found in over 38 countries.

- Winnie the Pooh books and videos have been translated in 29 languages.

- There have been at least three actors to voice Winnie the Pooh: Sterling Holloway, Hal Smith, and Jim Cummings.

- To date, approximately 320 minutes of Winnie the Pooh film footage spanning four featurettes and three feature films have been created.

- Winnie the Pooh feature films:
  - Pooh’s Heffalump Movie (2005)
  - Piglet’s Big Movie (2003)
  - The Tigger Movie (2000)

- Forbes magazine ranks Winnie the Pooh as the second most valuable character with $5.6 billion in global retail sales (Mickey is 1st with $5.8 billion).

- Winnie is one of the top three characters in the stuffed toy category.