\\\\\\CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS//////

Finding Turmoil in the pocket book?

It has been said at 21, Xavier Roberts created the first original cabbage patch kid and "adopted" it out for $40.00. As a new entrepreneur, the artist consolidated his love for sculpting and his quilting abilities he learned from his mother to produce one of America's most popular dolls in history. Xavier went about marketing his product. Rather than using the traditional term in selling and purchasing toys, he incorporated the theme of adoption into the sale of his items. With this new twist of adoption, the purchase encompassed a new meaning. The parents and children alike sought out the emotional value behind a child in need of a home.

Xavier had staggered onto a wealthy idea that would flourish in the marketplace. Although his dolls are creative and authentic, his prospect of the marketplace was harnessed through the idea of adoption. Also keeping the dolls unique was the idea to incorporate different themes into each dolls character such as the U.S. Space Shuttle cabbage patch kid. This allowed the dolls to incorporate the popularity of times, keeping the eye of the consumer in mind.

You can find the dolls in Wal-mart and other popular toys stores nation wide. This wide availability gives clue to a rather successful history that began thirty years ago. Today the new dolls still sell for a high price tag and the resale market of older Cabbage Patch dolls bring a higher price. It has been quoted that the older originals bring a new adoption price tag of $190.00 and up and the collectors interested in adopting them have no problems with paying those figures.

**Xavier Roberts** (born October 31, 1955, [Cleveland, Georgia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleveland,_Georgia)), the inventor and manufacturer of [Cabbage Patch Kids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabbage_Patch_Kids), is an American artist and businessman. During the American Folk art movement of the late 1970s[*[ambiguous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Disambiguation" \o "Wikipedia:Disambiguation)*], Roberts observed several techniques involving the making of dolls from various materials. Influenced by the quilts that his mother, Eula, made, he began experimenting with a quilted doll. After much experimentation, Roberts created a type of [doll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doll) he called "Little People". Roberts and a small group of friends began to travel from state to state in the southeastern U.S. attending folk art exhibitions. At these exhibitions, Roberts began selling these handcrafted dolls he called "babies". Going into business as Original Appalachian Artworks, Inc., Roberts started producing Little People in his hometown of Cleveland, at a converted medical clinic, which he rechristened "[Babyland General Hospital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babyland_General_Hospital" \o "Babyland General Hospital)". The Little People evolved by 1982 into [Cabbage Patch Kids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabbage_Patch_Kids), which quickly became a major toy [fad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fad). In 1984 alone, 20 million dolls were bought, and by 1999, 95 million had been sold worldwide.

In 1976, Xavier Roberts invented 'Little Person' dolls, the first Cabbage Patch Kids. Roberts was a teenager when he started the Babyland General Hospital in Cleveland, Georgia, where people could adopt a baby (the hand sewn dolls were never called dolls) complete with adoption papers. Roberts and five friends started the Original Appalachian Artworks company to produce the dolls. The Coleco toy company liked Roberts' ideas and began mass-marketing the dolls in 1983, under the new name of 'Cabbage Patch Kids.'

Finding Turmoil in the toy box?

**Cabbage patch universe**

Cabbage Patch Kids brand of products originally started as dolls called *Little People* created by Xavier Roberts with the help of four women and inspired by Tennessee artisan, Martha Nelson The name change to Cabbage Patch Kids was instigated by Roger Schlaifer before he secured the worldwide licensing rights to "Little People" and was the basis of the story co-authored in 1982 by Roger and his wife, Susanne Nance Schlaifer. An abbreviated version of the story was reproduced on every Cabbage Patch Kids product from 1983 going forward. Parker Brothers published the original story retitled "Xavier's Fantastic Discovery" in 1984 and their Parker Records produced a Gold Album using the characters. The characters appeared in many other Cabbage Patch merchandising products ranging from animated cartoons, to board games.

**Xavier Roberts** was created as a ten year old boy who discovered the Cabbage Patch Kids by following a BunnyBee behind a waterfall into a magical valley where he found the Cabbage Patch babies being born. To keep them from falling into the clutches of the evil Lavendar McDade (and being enslaved in her gold mine), he sought to get the babies adopted into the homes of loving families outside of Mount Yonah. **BunnyBees** are bee-like creatures with rabbit ears they use as wings. They pollinate cabbage blossoms with the magic crystals to make Cabbage Patch babies.

**Colonel Casey** is a large stork who oversees Babyland General hospital. He's the narrator of the Cabbage Patch Kids' story, too. **Otis Lee** is a the leader of the gang of Cabbage Patch Kids that befriend Xavier. **Lavendar McDade** is an evil old woman who wants to enslave Cabbage Patch Kids in her gold mine. **Cabbage Jack** is a large jack rabbit, and henchman of Lavendar. **Beau Weasel** is a large weasel and accomplice of Cabbage Jack.

**Coleco years**

The dolls attracted the attention of toy manufacturer [Coleco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coleco), who began mass-production in 1982.The Coleco [Cabbage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabbage) Patch Kids had large, round [vinyl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vinyl) heads, (originally of a different, hard plastic), and soft fabric bodies, and were produced from 1982–1989, many at a factory in [Amsterdam, New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amsterdam,_New_York). After Coleco went bankrupt, the Cabbage Patch Kids were later mass produced by other companies, including [Hasbro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasbro), [Mattel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattel), [Toys R Us](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toys_R_Us), and currently [Play Along](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Play_Along). [Mattel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattel) started producing them after cancelling production of [My Child](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Child) dolls.

At the peak of their popularity the dolls were a must-have [toy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toy) for [Christmas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas). Parents across the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) flocked to stores to try to obtain one of the Cabbage Patch Kids for their children, with fights occasionally erupting between parents over the hard-to-find dolls. In later years, Coleco introduced variants on the original Cabbage Patch Kids, and derivatives of the original line of dolls continued to be marketed. Hailey Theeuwen was the first known Cabbage Patch doll.

**Hasbro years**

[Hasbro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasbro) took over the rights to produce Cabbage Patch dolls in 1988 as Coleco went bankrupt, and continued to make the dolls with various gimmicks, including dolls that played [kazoos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazoo). Some of the more popular doll lines to come out under the Cabbage Patch Kids name included the "Birthday Kids", the "Splash 'n' Tan" Kids, and the "Pretty Crimp and Curl" Dolls. Hasbro gradually began making the dolls for younger children, which led to smaller and smaller dolls. Although Cabbage Patch dolls were still best selling toys, Hasbro never really revitalized the Cabbage Patch market. In 1994, [Mattel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattel) purchased the rights to the dolls.

**Mattel years**

In 1989, Mattel took over the Cabbage Patch [brand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brand), including production.

The Mattel Cabbage Patch dolls are not limited to cloth bodies and included dolls made from [vinyl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vinyl), which produced a more durable play doll. The Mattel dolls are mostly sized 14" or smaller, and most variants were individualized with a [gimmick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gimmick) to enhance their collectibility, e.g. some dolls played on water-toys, swam, ate food, or brushed their teeth.

Some memorable Mattel lines include the updated Kids line comprising basic cloth dolls that came with [birth certificates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth_certificates); the OlympiKids that were made to coincide with the [1996 Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996_Olympics) and the Cabbage Patch [Fairies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairies). Additionally, to celebrate the dolls' 15th anniversary, Mattel created a line of exclusively female dolls, dressed in period outfits and packaged in collectable boxes. These were the first Mattel dolls to be 16 inches tall, the same measurement of the original Cabbage Patch Kids.

**Toys "R" Us kids**

In 2003, retailer [Toys "R" Us](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toys_%22R%22_Us) took over the Cabbage Patch Kids brand from Mattel, producing 20-inch 'Kids and 18-inch Babies, both with cloth bodies and vinyl heads. They were packaged in cardboard [cabbage leaf](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cabbage_leaf&action=edit&redlink=1) seats. In 2003, the 20-inch 'Kids debuted in the [Times Square](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Times_Square) flagship store. These dolls were created to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the line, and were available both [online](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Online) and in stores around the US.

**Play along kids**

The Toys R Us line lasted until Play Along toys obtained the licensing to make and sell Cabbage Patch Kids.

[Play Along](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Play_Along), a [Jakks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakks) Company, produces the traditional 16-inch 'Kids as well as the Babies and Newborns lines. In preparation for the 25th anniversary, the company partnered with [Carvel Cakes](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Carvel_Cakes&action=edit&redlink=1) to make a 25th Anniversary Baby doll that licks an [ice cream](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_cream) cone, and also released a line of [retro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retro) 80's style dolls.

**The Cabbage Patch Kids Brand** is the original 1982 Cabbage Patch Kids [license agreement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/License_agreement) with Coleco Industries was negotiated and signed by Roger L. Schlaifer on behalf of Schlaifer Nance & Company, the exclusive worldwide licensing agency for Roberts' company.SN&C president Roger Schlaifer was responsible for originating the name, designing all of the graphics and packaging, as well as co-authoring with his wife Susanne Nance, "The Legend of the Cabbage Patch Kids." Following Schlaifer Nance & Company's signing of Coleco Industries, SN&C signed over one hundred and fifty licenses for branded products ranging from the first children's [diapers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diapers) and low-sugar cereal to clothing, backyard pools and thousands of other children's products — generating over $2 billion in retail sales for 1984, alone. Total sales during the Schlaifers' tenure exceeded $4.5 billion. After SN&C sold its exclusive licensing rights to Roberts' company, rights to the dolls were acquired by Hasbro and a succession of other toy companies. Sales of the dolls and other licensed products declined since the sale, the dolls have become a mainstay of the toy industry, a long-running doll brand in history.

**Porcelain Cabbage Patch Kids** These dolls have a rigid fabric body with [porcelain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porcelain) legs, arms, and head.

**Talking Cabbage Patch Kids**

A notable extension to the line was the "Talking Cabbage Patch Kid", equipped with a voice chip, touch sensors, and an infrared device for communicating with other such dolls. The touch sensors enabled the toy to detect when and how the toy was being played with in response to its vocalizations, e.g. the doll might say "hold my hand" and give an appropriate speech response when the touch sensor in the hand detected pressure. A more remarkable effect occurred when one doll detected the presence of another through its IR transmitter/receiver. The dolls were programmed to signal their "awareness" of each other with a short phrase, e.g. "I think there's someone else to play with here!", and then to initiate simple conversations *between the dolls themselves* with enough randomness to sound somewhat natural.

The high price ($100 or more), the need to have multiple dolls to take advantage of the full conversational effect, for some people the [spookiness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child%27s_Play) of having dolls converse with each other without human intervention, and the limited play value of a talking doll over its silent counterpart.

**Babyland General Hospital** is the "birthplace" of Cabbage Patch Kids and is located in [Cleveland, Georgia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleveland,_Georgia). Roberts converted an old clinic into a retail unit and mini [theme park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theme_park) from which to sell his dolls, originally called "Little People." The facility is presented as a [birthing](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Birthing&action=edit&redlink=1), [nursery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nursery_(room)), and [adoption](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoption) center for premium Cabbage Patch Kids. In accordance with the theme, employees dress and act the parts of the doctors and nurses caring for the dolls as if they are real neonates. Although the initial fad surrounding the dolls has largely died down, Babyland General is still heavily trafficked by diehard fans, tourists, and curiosity seekers. One recent find is a doll wearing a bathing suit and talks. The bathing suit is blue and green with the initials CPK printed on the fabric. She talks and says stuff like: "love to swim" she has a belly button that can be pressed to make her talk and has two metal pieces in the foot that make her talk and laugh.

**Controversies**

Cabbage Patch Kids were parodied by the [Garbage Pail Kids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garbage_Pail_Kids) [trading cards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trading_card). The parody led Xavier Roberts to sue [Topps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topps), the maker of Garbage Pail Kids, for [trademark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trademark) infringement.

The Cabbage Patch Kids Snacktime Kids, was designed to "eat" plastic snacks. The mechanism enabling this was a pair of one-way metal rollers behind a plastic slot and rubber lips, and the plastic snacks would exit the doll's back into a backpack. The dolls did not have an on-off switch and the mechanism was activated by putting the plastic snacks, or potentially other objects, between the lips and into the slot. The dolls were popular during Christmas 1996.

The line was voluntarily withdrawn from the market following an agreement between Mattel and the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consumer_Product_Safety_Commission) in January 1997 following several incidents where children got their fingers or hair stuck in the doll's mouth, which led to safety warnings from Connecticut's [consumer protection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consumer_protection) commissioner, Mark Shiffrin.

Some people believe the dolls were designed to desensitize the public to the appearance of mutated children born in the aftermath of a [nuclear war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_warfare).

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| [Vintage Cabbage Patch Birth Certificate & Adoption Papers Application for Ray Kelvin](http://www.1finetreasure.ecrater.com/p/6016898/vintage-cabbage-patch-birth-certificate) |

**The Christmas Story**  
According to cabbagepatchkids.com, the dolls “go on record as the most successful new doll introduction in the history of the toy industry”. In 2000, they were featured in a U.S. stamp series highlighting the 1980’s (the only other modern toy to ever be featured on a stamp is the Slinky).

It all started when celebrities were spotted toting them around, even President Jimmy Carter’s daughter Amy had one. Then, “Coleco began aggressively pushing the Cabbage Patch dolls–it sent them directly to reporters, a relatively new technique”. Over 2 million dolls were “adopted” in the first six months. By December of 1983, Cabbage Patch Dolls were on the cover of Newsweek and they were in short supply and high demand.

**The Craziness**  
The shopping frenzy surrounding the dolls is well documented According to, awesome80s.com dolls were being delivered to stores by armored car and Coleco pulled the TV commercials in an attempt to tame the madness; one desperate and doting Kansas City dad even flew to London to get his daughter a doll.

The crazy stories from the Cabbage Patch, says the dolls are “the first instance of a fad toy causing the phenomena now known as Christmas Gift Buying Rage.”