

Going Great Guns?: Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students brainstorm in pairs.
3. Stop the activity.
4. Elicit feedback.

Answers:

Pistol: a small gun which you can hold and fire with just one hand

Rifle: a gun which is fired usually from the shoulder, with spiralling grooves in the barrel which make the bullet spin and so give it additional accuracy over greater distances

Handgun: a small gun, for example a pistol or a revolver

Machine gun: a gun which keeps firing bullets in quick succession if the trigger is kept pressed

Shotgun: a long, smooth-barrelled gun which is used for firing small shot (as opposed to just one bullet) at close range targets

Activity 2

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students do the activity.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback.

Answers:

1. stuck to his guns

2. gave it her best shot

3. jumped the gun

4. lock, stock and barrel

5. shotgun wedding

6. going great guns

7. like a shot

8. gunning for

Activity 3

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students begin their conversation, in English, in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback.

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Activity 4

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

Answers:

- 1. Rifling increases accuracy because it makes the bullet spin.**
- 2. Breech-loading (as opposed to muzzle-loading) became widespread at the end of the 19th century.**
- 3. South Africa (71 in 100,000) – USA (3 in 100,000) – UK (1 in 1,000,000)**
- 4. See below:**

Quick Quiz

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find the **word** connected with this month's talking point subject, 'Going Great Guns?'.
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1. Our fascination with guns is not aRECENT..... phenomenon.
2. The first mechanical device forFIRING... a handgun did not appear until 1424.
3. Not until the early 19th century was the percussion systemINTRODUCED..... .
4. Breech-loading did not become widespread until the ...END..... of the 19th century.
5. Gun technology continues to advance today, with firearms becoming ever smaller,LIGHTER....., faster and more efficient.

Answers: RIFLE (R for Recent [1], I for Introduced [3], F for Firing [2], L for Lighter [5], E for End [4]).

Activity 5

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)

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