1 Weaponry: **Pistol**



Beretta M9 pistol

A **pistol** is a **sidearm.** Soldiers can **aim** and fire it with one hand. Pistols are smaller than other firearms, making them useful in **close combat**.

Modern pistols, such as the Beretta M9, are **semi-automatic.** This means that they do not need to be **charged** between rounds.

Officers most often carry **handguns**. In fact, **service pistols** have great symbolic meaning. When a unit is defeated, the **commanding officer** often gives his sidearm to the enemy **commander**. This shows that the unit **surrenders**.



1 What does the passage say about aiming the pistol?

- ○ **A** Its size makes it difficult to aim.
- ○ **B** It can be aimed with one hand.
- ○ **C** Semi-automatic pistols are easy to aim.
- ○ **D** It is hard to aim in close combat.

2 What can be inferred about pistols in the past?

- ○ **A** They had to be charged between rounds.
- ○ **B** They were less accurate than pistols today.
- ○ **C** They were larger than modern pistols.
- ○ **D** They were given to all members of an army.

3 Giving a pistol to an enemy commander symbolizes ...

- ○ **A** the desire to join the enemy.
- ○ **B** competition between military units.
- ○ **C** the surrender of a unit.
- ○ **D** a victory in a battle.

1 Which phrase describes a style of military fighting?

- ○ **A** semi-automatic
- ○ **B** commanding officer
- ○ **C** close combat

2 What must a soldier do to a pistol to allow it to fire rounds?

- ○ **A** surrender it
- ○ **B** aim it
- ○ **C** charge it

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

3 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

1 The soldiers took orders from the person in charge of a military unit.

(_ o _ _ _ _ d _ r)

2 Hostilities in a war cease when one side states that it has lost and will stop combat operations.

(s _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _)

1

(p _ _ _ _ _)

2

(_ _ d _ a _ _)

3

(_ _ n _ _ _ n)

4

(s _ _ _ _ c _) (_ i _ t _ _)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Listening

5 🎧 Listen to a speaker at a weapon manufacturing facility. Fill in the notes.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00

The M9 Pistol

Round capacity: _____ _____

Ideal use: _____ _____

Length: _____ _____

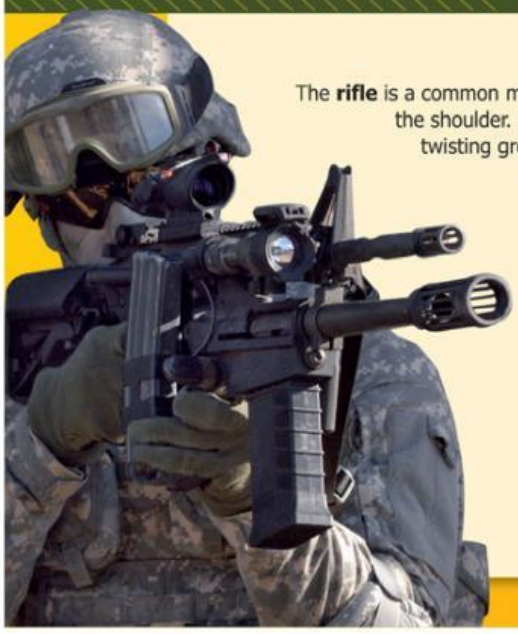
Weight: _____ _____

Round: _____ _____

Soldiers _____ and _____ a pistol with one _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Weaponry: **Rifle** 2



The **rifle** is a common military **firearm.** Soldiers **fire** it from the shoulder. It has a built-in **sight.** The **barrel** has twisting grooves on the inside. These spin the **bullet**, improving the weapon's **accuracy** and **range**. In fact, this weapon was named after the technique used to make the barrel: "**rifling**."

At one time, rifles could fire only one **round** at a time. However, modern semi-automatic **assault rifles** (also called "**assault weapons**") like the M16A2 can fire **multiple-round bursts** with a single pull of the trigger.

1 The rifle has a sight that is built in.	**True**	**False**
2 The rifle is named after the technique used to make the trigger.	**True**	**False**
3 Spinning the bullet improves the weapon's rate of fire.	**True**	**False**
4 Today, rifles can fire multiple bullets with one trigger pull.	**True**	**False**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 **Choose the correct definition for each word.**

1 ***accuracy***

- ○ **A** the distance a weapon can shoot
- ○ **B** a type of firearm
- ○ **C** the ability to hit a target
- ○ **D** the speed that bullets are fired at

2 ***automatic***

- ○ **A** able to fire multiple bullets
- ○ **B** able to spin bullets
- ○ **C** able to hit targets at long distances
- ○ **D** able to be fired from the shoulder

3 ***burst***

- ○ **A** a type of bullet
- ○ **B** a device used to aim
- ○ **C** a rifle that fires many bullets at once
- ○ **D** a series of bullets shot with one trigger pull

4 ***rifling***

- ○ **A** a firearm with a long barrel
- ○ **B** a way to make a firearm barrel
- ○ **C** the part of a weapon that makes it fire
- ○ **D** a bullet that is shot from a rifle

Vocabulary

3 **Choose the word or phrase that is similar in meaning to each given word.**

1 ***rifle***

- ○ **A** assault weapon
- ○ **B** sight
- ○ **C** range
- ○ **D** barrel

2 ***round***

- ○ **A** firearm
- ○ **B** burst
- ○ **C** bullet
- ○ **D** accuracy

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Listening

4 🎧 Listen to a conversation at a firing range. Choose the key vocabulary that you hear.



Select one or more:

- ○ rifle
- ○ firearm
- ○ fire
- ○ sight
- ○ barrel
- ○ bullet
- ○ accuracy
- ○ range
- ○ rifling
- ○ round
- ○ assault rifles / weapons
- ○ multiple-round bursts

Listening

5 🎧 Listen again to the conversation. Then complete the answers.



1 What type of firearm will the soldier use?

An M16A2 _____.

2 What does the soldier say is the firearm's range?

The effective _____ is 460 _____.

3 What does the sergeant instruct Private Barnes to do?

Aim and _____ five _____ into the _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Speaking

6 Talk about rifles. Use the words below to fill in the gaps.

shoulder | firearm | fire | pull of the trigger | bullet | multiple-round bursts | grooves | barrel | built-in sight

A rifle is a type of _____. It has a _____ and you _____ it from the _____. The _____'s twisting _____ spin the _____ to make it more accurate. A single _____ can produce _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS