How to Fire a Cannon

Firing a cannon in the 1700s was a dangerous and complicated job. The Spanish and British soldiers at the Castillo de San Marcos and at Fort Matanzas used these tools to clean, load, and fire the cannons. See if you can tell by the shape and the English name what each tool was used for. Write the Spanish name of each tool next to its description. Then, number the steps in the correct order.

Linstock (Botafuego)  Rammer (Atacador)  Ladle (Cuchara)  Worm (Sacatrapos)  Sponge (Lanada)  Vent Pick (Stiletto)  Powder Horn (Polvorín)

STEP

___________________ A cartridge made up of a cannon ball secured to a bag of gun powder is then put into the barrel. This tool is used to push it down.

1 ________________ First, this tool is put into the cannon to get out any wadding that might still be stuck in the barrel from the previous shot.

___________________ Next, fine powder is poured from this into the priming hole.

___________________ Sometimes, instead of using a cartridge, this tool is used to put a scoop of powder into the barrel before the ball is loaded.

___________________ Everyone stands back, and this tool with a burning rope, is gently placed on the priming hole.

___________________ Next, this tool is dipped lightly in water and put down the barrel to make sure all sparks are out.

___________________ This dagger-like tool is stuck down the priming hole at the back of the cannon to prick a hole in the cartridge bag.

TRY THIS— Think of something you do every day, like brush your teeth or eat breakfast, and write down every step in order, such as 1.Open cupboard door. 2.Take out box of cereal. 3.Put box on table. (etc.)
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**Tools:**
- Linstock (Botafuego)
- Rammer (Atacador)
- Ladle (Cuchara)
- Worm (Sacatrapos)
- Sponge (Lanada)
- Vent Pick (Stiletto)

**Powder Horn (Polvorín)**

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**STEP**

3. ____Atacador______ A cartridge made up of a cannon ball secured to a bag of gun powder is then put into the barrel. This tool is used to push it down.

1. ____Sacatrapos______ First, this tool is put into the cannon to get out any wadding that might still be stuck in the barrel from the previous shot.

6. ____Polvorín______ Next, fine powder is poured from this into the priming hole.

4. ____Cuchara______ Sometimes, instead of using a cartridge, this tool is used to put a scoop of powder into the barrel before the ball is loaded.

7. ____Botafuego______ Everyone stands back, and this tool with a burning rope, is gently placed on the priming hole.

2. ____Lanada______ Next, this tool is dipped lightly in water and put down the barrel to make sure all sparks are out.

5. ____Stiletto______ This dagger-like tool is stuck down the priming hole at the back of the cannon to prick a hole in the cartridge bag.