
Fort Pulaski

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



Fort Pulaski National Monument

Cannons by the Numbers

5th-6th grade

Student Worksheet

Welcome to Fort Pulaski National Monument.
You will be doing some math activities to learn
more about Civil War cannons.

Stop 1

This cannon represents the kind of cannon that
was used by the Union Army in the battle for Fort
Pulaski.

It fired a projectile that weighed 30 pounds.
Projectile is a fancy word for cannonball.

Express the weight of the projectile in ounces.

30 pounds = _____ ounces

Stop 2

This machine was used to lift cannons to the top
of the fort.

Using pulleys and levers attached to the gin, 10
men would lift a 15,000-pound cannon barrel.

The bronze cannon barrel under the gin weighs
800 pounds. Using the 15,000-pound barrel
example, how many men would it take to lift the
800-pound barrel?

Stop 3

Problem #1

The long, black metal part is called the barrel. It is 126 inches long. Express that in feet and inches.

126 inches = _____ feet and _____ inches

Math problem #2

The barrel was loaded in the front with a cannonball. A cannon like this could fire a ball 1,955 yards. Express that distance in miles and feet. (Hint: 1 yard = 3 feet and 1 mile = 5,280 feet.)

1,955 yards = _____ miles and _____ feet

Stop 4

Math problem #1:

The carriage alone weighs 3,695 pounds.

The upper set of wheels weighs 446 pounds.

The lower set of wheels weighs 258 pounds.

The barrel weighs 8,465 pounds.

How much does the entire cannon weigh?

_____ pounds

Math problem #2

The battle for Fort Pulaski was fought from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m. The soldiers could re-load a weapon like this once every four minutes. If the soldiers fired continually for the entire first day of battle, how many shots would they have fired?

_____ shots

Stop 5

At the time of the battle, the magazine held 40,000 pounds of gunpowder. Each barrel would have held 100 pounds of gunpowder. How many barrels were stacked in the magazine?

_____ barrels