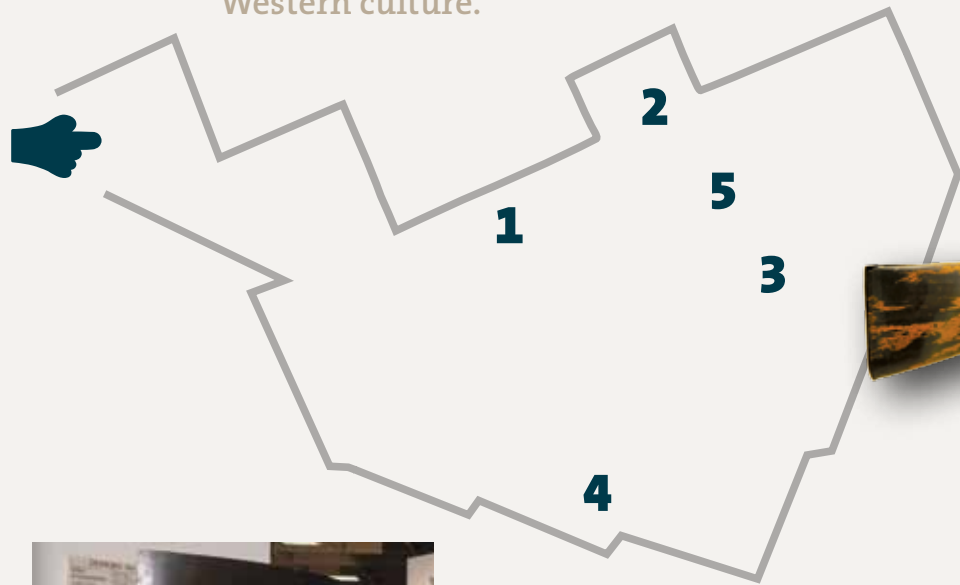




# CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM

Firearms are essential in the American West – for hunting, military use, personal protection, law enforcement, and for sports and entertainment. Throughout history the gun has been an important part of shaping Western culture.



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## ANNIE OAKLEY'S SHOW PIECE

**2** Sharpshooter Annie Oakley was one of Buffalo Bill's Wild West's world-famous stars. She used this L. C. Smith side-by-side double-barrel hammerless shotgun, as well as other firearms, during her acts. Annie performed many feats during the Wild West. She could shoot a dime out of her husband's fingers, hit the edges of playing cards, and even shoot backwards.

## BLUNDERBUSS

**3** The blunderbuss, or "Thunder Gun", was a good firearm for self-protection and military use. People used this early version of today's shotgun in the 1700's. It was powerful, loud, and its flared muzzle, or mouth, made it easier to load many small metal balls, or "shot", while moving.



1988.8.1608



L.1.99.1

## THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S WINCHESTER RIFLE

**4** The Winchester Level Action Rifle was widely used in the West, because it was useful for both hunting and fighting. This Winchester Model 1895 rifle was a favorite of President Theodore Roosevelt. Some of his "Rough Riders" used it in the Spanish-American War, and Roosevelt used it for hunting in Africa.



1988.8.3327

## GATLING GUN

**1** The Gatling gun was an impressive military firearm, because of its rapid rate of fire. Richard Gatling invented this gun in 1861. This heavy gun has armor for more protection. Gatling guns were not easy to move, but they saw important usage in the West.



## HARDWARE STORE

**5** Gun companies, such as Colt's, were the first to develop interchangeable parts and mass produce guns. They were able to manufacture large numbers of guns in short periods of time. Other companies, including Winchester, followed by mass producing other items such as roller skates, ice skates, tools, and razors.

**BUFFALO BILL  
CENTER  
OF THE WEST**

now it's your turn:

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

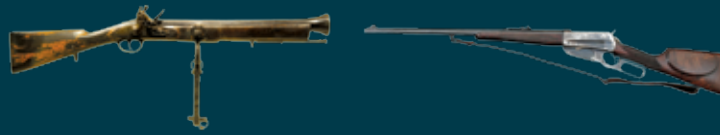


## tell your side of the story

What area or object of the Cody Firearms Museum was *your* favorite and why?

Was there one area or object that *you* did not know about before visiting the museum? What did *you* learn?

## just the facts



Compare the blunderbuss to the Winchester Model 1895 rifle. Which firearm do *you* think is more useful? Which is more accurate?

List the uses for guns in the West.

Explain how interchangeable parts changed how companies produced goods.

What were the advantages and disadvantages of the Gatling Gun?

## let's make it relevant

Most of the fighting in the West was between individuals or small groups, with people moving quickly to attack, escape, or find protective cover. Would *you* rather use a Winchester rifle or a Gatling gun? Why?

The blunderbuss of the 1700's is different from the shotguns people shoot today. Which gun do you think is better for hunting and why?



# The big question

Imagine the West without guns. How would performers in Buffalo Bill's Wild West have performed differently?



*Thank you Sinclair for generously supporting the MILES program!*

**Buffalo Bill Center of the West**  
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