



CIVIL WAR AMMUNITION

In the Civil War soldiers used paper cartridges in their rifles. The paper cartridge was full of black powder. To fire his rifle, a Civil War soldier needed a paper cartridge and a percussion cap. These caps looked very much like the caps for toy cap guns sold today. The soldier put the percussion cap into the firing chamber of his rifle.

Then, he tore open the paper cartridge. He emptied the black powder into the barrel of the gun. Next, he packed the powder into the barrel with a ramming rod. When the soldier pulled the trigger, the hammer came down on the percussion cap. Pop! This ignited the black powder. The musket ball or bullet zoomed down the barrel of the gun. Boom! The bullet sailed through the air toward its target.