For the same force, why is the speed of a cannonball greater when shot from a cannon with a longer barrel?





## Next-Time Question

For the same force, why is the speed of a cannonball greater when shot from a cannon with a longer barrel?

Answer:

CONCEPTUAL Physics

There are two main reasons for the greater speed. A cannonball with greater speed has greater momentum and greater kinetic energy. How does it get greater momentum for the same applied force? By a greater impulse, which is "force x time." The time during which the force acts is longer in the long barrel! Or how does the cannonball get more kinetic energy? By greater work, which is "force x distance." The greater distance the force acts in the barrel produces more work = more kinetic energy!