The Beltway Snipers

During a three week period in October 2002, ten people were killed and three others were wounded as two snipers terrorized the region in and around Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. The arrest of John Allen Muhammad, 41, and Lee Boyd Malvo, 17, ended the ordeal.

The semi-automatic .223-caliber rifle seized from them was ultimately linked by ballistics tests to eight of the ten killings.

The car that Muhammad and Malvo were driving had been specially configured with one whole in the trunk through which a rifle barrel could protrude, so that the sniper could shoot from the inside a slightly ajar trunk.
The major break in the case came when a friend of Muhammad's called the police suggesting that Muhammad and his friend Malvo were the likely snipers. Muhammad's automobile records revealed numerous traffic stops in the Beltway area during the time of the shootings.

Another break in the case came when Malvo called a priest to boast of a killing. Investigators traced the claim to a recent liquor store holdup that left one person dead. The suspect left a latent fingerprint which matched Malvo.
A description of Muhammad's car was released to the media, leading to tips from alert citizens who noticed the car parked in a rest area with both occupants asleep.

The motive for the shooting spree was believed to be a planned plot to extort $10 million from local and state governments. Muhammad was recently executed and Malvo is serving a life sentence.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgtkYZ_6
Types of Firearms

Firearms can be divided into handguns and long guns designed to be held and fired with one hand

Most common
1. single shot
2. revolvers
3. semiautomatic

All handguns can be classified as single action or double action.

requires the hammer to be cocked backwards each time before the trigger is pulled.

the hammer is cocked when the trigger is pulled and then reload the firing chamber after the round is fired.
single shot pistols can only fire one round at a time and each round must be manually loaded before firing.

The revolver features several firing chamber located within the revolving cylinder. As the revolver is fired, the cylinder can rotate clockwise or counterclockwise. Each chamber hold one cartridge. The cartridges can be manually removed.

break top revolver

swing out revolver
Semi automatic pistols feature a removable magazine, most often inside the grip of the firearm.

Once the magazine is loaded, the hammer is cocked by pulling the slide on the top of the gun backward and then releasing it to load the first round.

Semiautomatics fire one bullet per trigger pull.

Fully automatic like machine guns will fire as long as the trigger is pulled or until the ammunition is depleted.
Long guns are either rifles or shotguns.

Designed to be fired while resting on the shoulder. Main difference between both of these weapons is the ammunition and the barrel.

The shell contains ball shaped projectiles called a shot. The barrel of a shotgun is smooth, without the grooves and lands found in rifles.
The shotgun barrel is also narrowed towards the muzzle to concentrate the shot when fired. This is called the choke of the shotgun.

A shotgun may be single or doubled barreled. The two barrels can be horizontal or vertical. The barrels can also have different choke diameters.
The name refers to the loading mechanism of each.

Pump action

Difference between semiautomatic and fully automatic is the disconnector mechanism

Semiautomatic

uses energy from firing reaction to expel spent cartridge and load next round

fires one shot per trigger pull

Bolt action

Uses the movement of the bolt mechanism to expel the spent cartridge case, load the next round and cock the hammer