



Jump into the cockpit and take flight with Pilot books.
Your journey will take you on high-energy adventures as you learn about all that is wild, weird, fascinating, and fun!

This edition first published in 2016 by Bellwether Media. Inc

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5357 Penn Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Date

Natines: Green, Sara, 1964
Title: NERF / by Sara Green.
Description: Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, Inc., 2016. | Series:
Pilot: Brands We Know | Includes bibliographical references and Inde.
Identifiers: LCCN 2015028669 | ISBN 9781626173491 (hardcover: alk.
paper)
Subjects: LCSH NEPE trans... La polita literatura.

Classification: LCC GVI220.9 G74 2016 | DDC 7901/33—dc2: LC record available at http://lccn.loc.gov/2015028669

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Printed in the United States of America, North Mankato, MN



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#### What Is Nerf?

Six children arm themselves with Nerf blasters for a backyard battle. Soon, foam darts are flying through the air. The children try to outrun them, but the darts

travel fast and far. A player gets hit and is

out! The other players fire until their

clips are empty. After reloading,

the action begins again!

Nerf is a popular toy **brand** owned by Hasbro, Inc. This company is one of the largest toy makers in the world. Its

headquarters is in Pawtucket,

Rhode Island. Nerf is well known for its brightly colored toy weapons. These

shoot foam **ammunition** or squirt water. Nerf also sells **accessories** for its weapons. Nerf balls and other sports equipment are very popular. People can play with these toys indoors and outdoors. Many kids also test their battle skills with Nerf's online games. When people play with Nerf, they are sure to have fun!

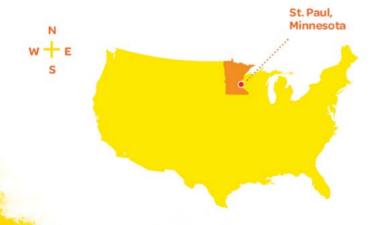


## By the Numbers



### **How Nerf Began**

The Nerf brand started with a ball. A man named Reynolds Guyer, or Reyn, created it in 1969. At that time, Reyn owned a toy company based in St. Paul, Minnesota. He had an idea for a game called "Caveman." To play, people hid fake money under foam rocks. They threw the rocks at each other to prevent stealing. Reyn and his team realized that throwing the foam rocks was the game's best part. They used scissors to cut off the edges of a rock. Now they had an orange, squishy ball. This was the first Nerf ball.



# Throw it indoors; you can't damage lamps or break windows. You can't hurt babies or old people.

1970s Nerf ball tagline



The team presented their toy to a large company called Parker Brothers. In 1970, Nerf balls went on sale for less than a dollar. People loved playing games such as volleyball and basketball inside their homes. By the

end of the year, more than 4 million Nerf balls had been sold. The small foam ball was a hit!

#### The Orange Ornament

The Guyer family still owns the original Nerf ball. Every December, the family hangs it on their Christmas tree as an ornament.

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