

PAPER ROCKETS

BACKGROUND

A rocket is a special vehicle that can fly high up into the sky and even into space. It usually looks like a long round tube with a pointy top. Rockets help scientists and astronauts explore and learn more about outer space. For example, they are used to send astronauts to space, launch satellites into orbit around the Earth, and transport important supplies and equipment to astronauts at the International Space Station.

A rocket can also mean the type of engine in these vehicles, which uses fuel to create a big blast of hot gases, pushing a vehicle up into the sky or space (this action is called *jet propulsion*).



Behind the scenes
of building one of
NASA's rockets!



Liftoff!

MATERIALS

Materials:

- Straws
- Tape
- Markers
- Scissors
- Rocket template



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Color the rocket(s) and cut them out
2. Take the larger sized straw and cut it to fit the size of the rocket, and tape one end shut. Then attach the straw to the back of the rocket.
3. Now take another straw and slip it into the opening of the straw that is attached to the rocket. It's important that this second straw is **SMALLER** than the already taped one.
4. Now all you have to do to make your rocket fly is blow into the little straw and watch your rocket take off!

TRY THIS!

- Compare how different angles of the straw affect the distance the rocket travels
- See how adding fins or folding the rocket in different ways can affect its flight.

