



The Secret Case of the Space Station Stowaways

SCIENCE
ACTIVITY

Space Station Stowaways - Air Powered Mini Rocket

Build a rocket and launch our two brave explorers, Mae & Clinton, into space!

1. Make Your Rocket

- Flatten the tip of one end of the short, wide straw with your fingers. Seal it with tape.
- Cut out one of the rockets below which has Mae & Clinton looking out the window, and fold it in half.
- Tape the rocket to the sealed end of the straw.

2. Rocket Blast Off!

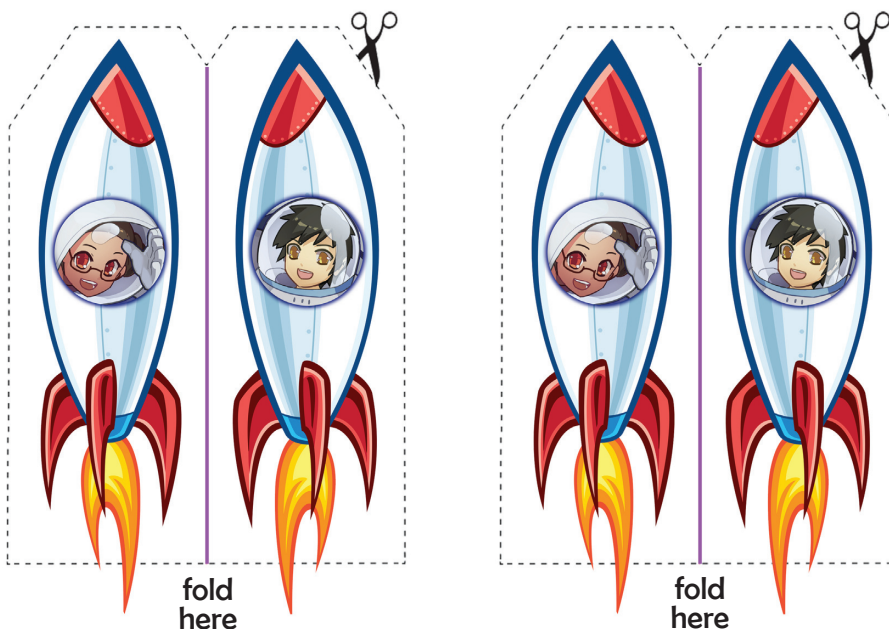
- Place the open end of Mae & Clinton's rocket over the full-length thinner straw.
- Aim the rocket upwards. Make sure you're not pointing the rocket towards a person, then blow into the bottom of the thin straw and watch it fly.
- Can you figure a way to launch your rocket if you want it to go further?
- Can you figure a way to launch your rocket if you want it to go higher?

3. Experiment with Different Engineering Designs

- If you were a real rocket engineer, you might want to figure out what will happen if you change the design of your rocket.
- Maybe try launching your rocket with a paper clip attached to the top of it. Does this design fly farther than the original design? Why do you think this happened? What if you used two paper clips?
- Can you come up with other designs for your rocket?
- Building different designs and then testing them is part of what's called an "Engineering Design Process." This is what real-life engineers do as part of their job. What does testing help you discover about your rocket?

MATERIALS

- > child-safe scissors
- > the cutout below
- > (optional) paper clip
- > double sided tape
- > a wide straw
- > a thinner straw



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