

Drinking Straw Rockets



You will need:

- Drinking straws (plastic or reusable)
- Printer paper of any color
- Scissors
- Tape
- Ruler
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

Instructions:

1. Cut a strip of paper that is approximately 2 inches wide and 8.5 inches long.
2. Wrap the strip of paper tightly around a pencil the long way. Tape it together so that it will stay in the shape of a tube.
3. Remove the tube from your pencil. Fold one end over and tape it down; this will be the rocket's nose.
4. Cut 2-4 small triangles from the paper to act as "fins" on your rocket. Tape them to the bottom of the rocket, which will be the opposite end of the nose. (Pro tip: fins work best when evenly spaced from one another around the base of the rocket.)
5. Decorate your rocket with markers, crayons, or colored pencils! Visit www.nasa.gov for inspiration to see what real rockets look like.
6. Put your rocket over the end of your drinking straw and aim away from people, pets, or other hazards.
7. Count down from 10, and blow into the straw to launch your rocket!

Variations:

1. Instead of folding the nose in step 3, try twisting it around the tip of your pencil to create a pointed nose. Does the shape of your rocket affect how far it can fly?
2. Try creating different sizes of rockets by making your paper strip longer or shorter. Will a taller rocket fly the same distance as a shorter one?
3. Change your angle of launch by pointing the straw higher into the air. How does this affect the distance your rocket travels?

This craft activity is adapted from a project shared on Scholastic.com website for parents. Photo is taken from Scholastic.com.

