

Stomp Rockets

Rockets play important roles in our daily lives. Just ask the first Hispanic Woman in space, Dr. Ellen Ochoa. Everything from cell phone communication to cable television has been simplified due to rockets taking satellites into space. What separates rockets from most flying machines is their launch, which takes propulsion. **Propulsion** is the action of driving or pushing forward. Let's create our own rockets and then we will launch them to honor the first Latina American in space, Astronaut Ellen Ochoa.

YOU WILL NEED

- Construction paper
- Masking tape
- Markers
- Small stickers
- Scissors
- 2 liter bottle
- Bike or rubber tubing
- Tape

MAKE A ROCKET

1. Wrap a thin piece of paper around thin tube, relatively tight, then tape or glue the seam closed.
2. Remove the construction paper tube from the tube. Cap off one open end with paper and tape. Make sure it is sealed tight on that end so air cannot escape.
3. Draw 2 – 3 triangles for fins then tape fins to end of rocket.

MAKE A LAUNCHER

1. Tape the opening of a 2-liter bottle to a bike tube. Be sure the taped seal between the bottle and tube is airtight.

LAUNCH IT

1. Slide rocket all the way down onto bike tube.
2. Begin a countdown 10...9...8...
3. Launch it by stomping on the 2-liter bottle when it is full of air.

QUESTIONS TO SELF

- What caused the rocket to fly?
- Observe how your rocket flies, what direction did it go in?
- How long did it stay in the air?
- How can you improve the launch?
- Was it spinning as it flew?

