



Blast Off! - Teacher Notes

Space is an exciting topic for students of any age as there is so much that we do not know yet so their imaginations get a good workout. This topic can easily become a classroom theme with decorations, mathematics and literacy activities, even the behaviour management system tied in (a rocket that students move up or down in depending on behaviour).



Rockets are a good place to start as they are a mode of transport to get us into space. Students can be asked to consider what needs to be included in the design of a rocket. They may include things like:

- powerful engines to help them blast off
- windows so we can look into space when we're up there
- a ladder so we can climb in and out when we land on other planets
- fins to help steer
- flashing lights to tell us if things go wrong
- seats for the astronauts



They could then draw a picture of their own design of both the



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inside and outside of a rocket. Once they have their design, students could construct the rocket using recycled materials and other things, like aluminium foil and cellophane.

To extend this activity again, you could discuss with students what they will need to take with them when they go to space. What is essential to survive, what would be useful and what would be considered a luxury to have?

To build a simple rocket that will delight students, take a balloon, a straw, some tape and a length of string that will reach across your classroom. Thread the straw onto the string then attach either end of the string to the sides of the classroom, ensuring the string is taut and is high enough to provide a clear path for the rocket. Inflate the balloon, without tying it off, and attach it to the straw with a couple of pieces of tape. After asking the students to stand clear of the string, release the balloon and it will very quickly fly across the classroom. You can experiment with different shapes of balloons and also the size that the balloon is inflated to and perhaps even by adding cardboard fins to stabilise.

