



Create a paper “rocket” that will fly without being touched.

GET
YOUR
GEAR

plastic straw

paper

tape



HINT:

Have you ever made the paper wrapper fly off of a straw? Try to make a similar design.

S

Rockets must have a lot of force to escape Earth's gravity. What force is causing your rocket to fly? Can you make it stronger?

T

NASA has a special launch pad to hold the rocket during liftoff. Can you make a tool to hold your rocket during liftoff?

E

Change your design so that the rocket can travel farther. Can you make it easier to steer or aim?

A

Create a decorative rocket ship to add to your design. Is it too heavy to fly? Change your design to handle the new "load."

M

Record how far your rocket flies each time. Does the angle that you point the straw affect how far it goes? Graph your data.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

To launch rockets and the space shuttle, NASA uses a special launch pad. The rocket engines have fuel. When the fuel burns, it turns to a hot gas. The hot gas pushes out of the back of the engine, which pushes the rocket forward.

Scientists have to find the right amount of fuel to move the rocket. They need enough to push the weight into space. The heavier it is, the more fuel it needs. They also design rockets to be long and thin so they fly better and faster.