



Bottle Blast Off

#266

AGE GROUP



HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Work together to create a stable launchpad for the rocket - the easiest way to do this is for children to tape the pencils/craft sticks or similar to the plastic bottles so that the end of the pencil or stick will touch the ground when the bottle is upside down (but not the bottle).
- If you are using one bottle for each child they might like to decorate their 'rocket' before launch with pens or paint.
- For each bottle rocket, place one heaped tablespoon of bi-carb soda onto a piece of paper towel then fold into a tight roll.
- Set up the rockets ready to launch in a large open space then pour 1 cup of vinegar into the first bottle (I find using a funnel helps!).
- Poke the paper towel you rolled up earlier into the bottle opening then push in your foam cork.
- Quickly turn the bottle upside down onto the launchpad and all back away quickly so you can watch the launch.
- Sometimes it can take up to a minute to launch - don't allow children to go close and look into the bottle if it is taking awhile for safety sake.

WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Bicarb Soda (Baking Soda)
- Colored pencils/craft sticks or branches & Tape
- Vinegar
- Plastic bottles (2 litre soft drink/pop/soda bottles work well)
- Wine cork (for younger children substitute the cork for a piece of foam like a pool noodle - it still works but gives less pressure than a cork and won't fly as high).
- Paper towel sheets
- Tape



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EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- For older children - replace the homemade cork with a wine cork for extra force and lift. You can also make the launching pad design a more complicated engineering challenge, perhaps using wood offcuts, loose parts, screws, and other tools.

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