Space Science

POP-ROCKET

Create a model rocket and launch it into the air.

Materials

Paper
Plastic 35-mm film canister (the cap must fit inside the rim instead of outside of it)
Cellophane tape
Scissors
Effervescing antacid tablet
Paper towels
Water
Eye safety glasses

Procedure

- Use your paper to craft the body of a rocket.
- Tape your rocket to the lid of the canister. Do not tape the lid closed or obstruct the lid in any way.
- Put on your safety glasses.
- Fill the canister 1/3 full of water.
- Drop half of an effervescing tablet into the canister and quickly snap the lid on tight.
- Set the canister upright, step back, and wait.
- **Note:** This experiment should be performed outside, away from windows, cars, or breakable objects.

Results

Your rocket blasted off!

Why?

When the effervescent tablet made contact with the water, it began to dissolve and release carbon dioxide gas. With the lid securely on the canister, the carbon dioxide is trapped and begins to build pressure in the canister. When enough pressure has built up, it will push the lid out with force, propelling the lid and rocket into the air.

This activity was adapted from NASA.gov