



Shoot for the Stars! 

Rockets and satellites



What do rockets and satellites have to do with the age of fast internet?

NBN is about to launch two satellites– a crucial component designed to help level the playing field between city and the bush. Rockets are the way the communication satellites are launched into orbit around the earth! Satellite ground stations are critical pieces of infrastructure, essential to the delivery of access to faster broadband in rural and remote Australia and in turn, access to better learning opportunities.

The two new satellites will launch from 2015 – if one of your students wins the illustration competition featured [here](#), your school will get to work with NBN Co to name one of the satellites, so encourage your students to enter the competition.

These quick and easy resources help students learn about rockets and satellites, and construct model rockets using a range of different materials. The instructions are suitable for a range of ages, however all activities should be reviewed for age appropriateness and should only be undertaken under adult supervision.

1. Soft drink straw rocket

http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com/pdfs/2009activities/KSC_Soda_Straw_Rocket-Mars_2009a.pdf

2. Squeeze rocket

<http://www.csiro.au/Portals/Education/SbE-Activity-Archive.aspx>

Then search 5. Physical Science Activities/Flight

3. Construct a rocket from materials at hand – recycle material such as cardboard tubes, cans, paper, paints, plastic milk bottles or cartons.

Before you start, draw a plan diagram of the rocket and label it.

Did it work or does the plan need modifying?

4. Behind the News – satellites. Launch one from your school!

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4131951.htm>

Teacher resource sheet

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/resources/teacher/episode/20141125-studentsatellites.pdf>



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Sources

Straw drink rocket – Kids Science Challenge contains inspiring videos, games and downloadable hands-on science activities. The Kids' Science Challenge is a project of Jim Metzner Productions, Inc. In partnership with the National Science Foundation (USA)

[http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com/pdfs/2009activities/KSC Soda Straw Rocket-Mars 2009a.pdf](http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com/pdfs/2009activities/KSC_Soda_Straw_Rocket-Mars_2009a.pdf)

Squeeze rocket - CSIRO Science by Email, a free online newsletter for students, teachers and anyone with an interest in science, produced in partnership with Lloyd's Register Foundation. Lloyd's Register Foundation invests in science, engineering and technology for public benefit, worldwide.

<http://www.csiro.au/Portals/Education/SbE-Activity-Archive.aspx> Then search under 5. Physical Science Activities/Flight

Behind the News – introducing students to the world of news, ABC TV (2014, 25 November, ep 34) Student Satellites, schools learning how to launch satellites.

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4131951.htm>

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