



Indoor Rockets

Introduction

Model rockets are rich teaching tools, because of the many physical and mathematical concepts that describe rocket flight. For an elementary level mathematics class, the rocket can be used to explore the effect of launch angles on displacement. Students will make predictions on what angle of launch will give the rocket the greatest vertical displacement and what angle of launch will give the rocket the greatest horizontal displacement. They will then have the opportunity to test their predictions by launching compressed air rockets in the classroom.

Indoor Rockets is less expensive than a store-bought stomp-rocket. Students will construct the launch-pad themselves, measure the angle of launch, and design and test different shapes of rockets. The activity provides a practical, visual application of concepts learnt in a math class, as well as encouraging students to use the scientific method.