



Discovery Worksheets

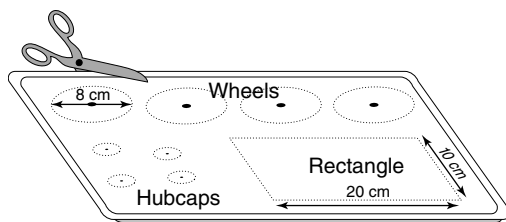
Rocket cars

Engineers use scientific ideas to build new technology and make it work. For example, they design bridges, buildings and computers. The people who make and test Formula One racing cars are also engineers. These engineers work together to make the cars safer, lighter and faster.

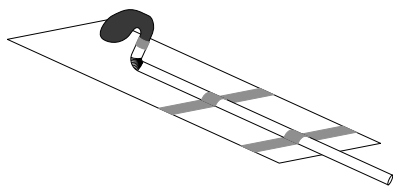
Become an engineer ...

In groups of three, build your own rocket car by following the directions below.

1. Begin by drawing a simple design on a foam tray. Use a rectangle as the body of the car.

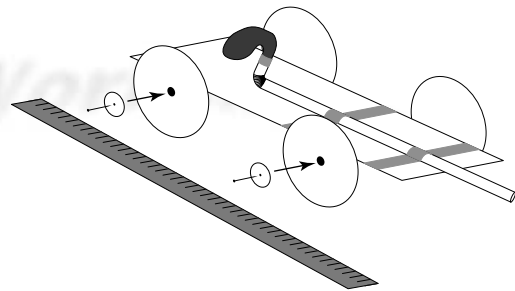


2. Blow up a balloon and then let it deflate. Tape the balloon to the short end of a flexible straw.
3. Tape the straw to the 'body' of the car.



4. Use pins to attach the small circles to the larger ones.

5. Secure the 'wheels' to the 'body' of the car.



6. Blow up the balloon through the straw.
7. Cover the end of the straw tightly, until you are ready to launch your rocket car.
8. Let the straw go and watch your car take off!

Reporting on your car

1. How far did the car travel?
2. Did the car experience any major problems?
3. Without changing the shape of the car, can you make it travel further?
4. In your group, design a new 'body' for the car. Create a design to make the car travel further and faster.
5. Challenge other groups to see whose car travels the greatest distance and whose travels the fastest.



Atlas of Discovery, pp. 46–47; foam tray; pen or pencil; ruler; circle to trace around; scissors; balloon; flexible straw; pin