



National Simultaneous Storytime ...from space!

Give me some **Space!**
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Pop Rocket Experiment.

Try this experiment to make your own gas-propelled rocket at home! You can also follow the [step-by-step video guide by Qwestacon here](#) – one of the many great resources you can find on the [STARportal](#).

What you'll need:

- Bi-carb soda
- Water
- White vinegar
- A cup and teaspoon
- A film canister, or similar airtight container with a tightly-fitting push-on lid. (If you can't find a film canister, some alternatives we've seen include mini playdoh containers, children's paint pots, and some pill and vitamin tubes – your pharmacist can be a good place to ask.)

What to do:

1. This experiment can get messy, so best to set up outside or on a tiled floor for this one!
2. Place one teaspoon of the bi-carb soda in the cup. Add a few drops of water and mix to form a thick paste.
3. Put some of the paste inside the lid of the film canister, packing the paste in tightly.
4. Pour a small amount of vinegar into the film canister so it is about one-third full.
5. The next part has to be done **carefully and quickly**. Hold the canister in one hand away from your body and use your other hand to put the lid on, making sure it's on tight. **Quickly** place the canister upside-down (lid down) on level ground and stand back; it is about to fly!

Questions:

Did your rocket fly? How high did it go? Did it not work the way you expected?

If your rocket refused to fly, check that there weren't any leaks around the lid. You can also try using water and an Alka-Seltzer tablet instead of bicarb and vinegar.

What's going on?

You've just done a chemical reaction! The vinegar and bicarb soda react together and produce carbon dioxide gas. As the reaction continued, pressure built up inside the rocket until it pushed the cap off, launching your rocket into the air.

Don't forget to rinse and dry your container before you try it again; maybe this time you can decorate your rocket ship with a nosecone, fins, or any other rocket-bits you can think of!

**All experiments should be conducted with adult supervision.*