

Rocket Race Field Trip

Pre-Visit Lesson

Grade level: 3-4 year olds

Duration: 20 Minutes

Essential Questions

- What is a rocket?
- What shapes do you see in a rocket?
- What is a model?

Learning Outcomes

- Explore building rockets through shapes
- Understand shapes; rectangle, triangle, circle, cylinder, cone
- Make the distinction between a real rocket and a model

Materials

- Model or print out image of a Rocket

Lesson

1. Introduction – [5 minutes]

The teacher will discuss the Rocket Race Field Trip

- Introduce National Air and Space Museum, using Field Trip Story
- What do you know about rockets?
- What does a rocket look like?
- Can you take a rocket to the store? To school? Where does a rocket go?

2. Model Rocket [10 minutes]

The teacher will introduce the model rocket or image of a rocket.

- Where are the engines?



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- Where do the astronauts sit? Why?

3. *Rocket Chant* [5 minutes]

BOOM (clap, then move pressed hands from side to side)

Chicka-Rocka, Chicka-Rocka, Chicka BOOM (clap hands)

BOOM (clap hands, then move pressed hands upward)

Take a Rocket, Take a Rocket to the MOON! (Open hands, trace circle moons with hands)

Extensions

- Read different versions of the Aesop's fable, *Hare and Tortoise*. (Check with your school librarian or public library.) Predict which animal should win? Why does the tortoise win? What does the moral mean? *Slow and steady wins the race*.
- Discuss: What is a race? How do people race and what happens in a race?
- Ready, Set Go...Race! Organize a running race on the playground. Try a slow race – see who can walk the slowest. Roll balls or cars and use those to race. Set up a start and finish line for each contest.



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