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?
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.