



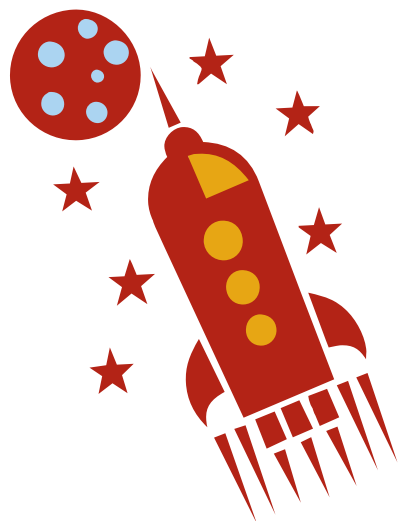
One important characteristic of gas is pressure. Increasing the amount of gas in a container can raise the pressure of a gas. In this activity, you will use the build-up of gas pressure to launch a film-canister rocket.

## Materials

File folder or card stock  
Blunt-end scissors  
Glue  
Empty film canister  
Double-sided tape  
Half of an effervescent antacid tablet  
Water  
Stopwatch

*NOTE: This activity can be messy and should be conducted outside.*

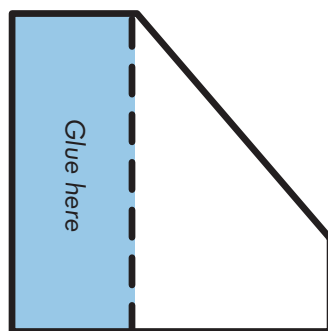
**SAFETY!** SAFETY: Be sure to follow Milli's Safety Tips and do this activity only with adult supervision! Do not eat or drink the water used in this activity! Eye protection must be worn by everyone present in the launch area!



## Procedure

### Build the Rocket

1. To make fins for the rocket, trace the pattern below (four times) onto a file folder, or a piece of card stock.
2. Cut along the solid lines so that you make four fins.
3. Fold the fins along the dotted lines.
4. Place glue on each of the fins in the area marked "Glue here" in the picture above, and attach each of the fins to the film canister. Be sure to have the point of the triangle towards the closed end of the canister and to leave enough room to put the lid on the open end of the canister.
5. Fold the fins so they stick straight out from the canister.

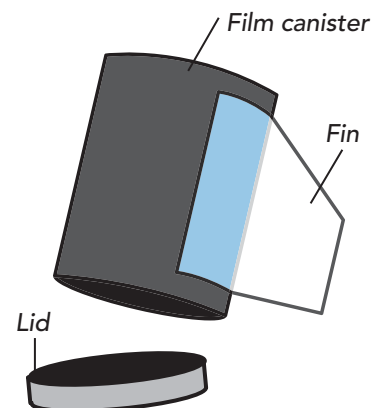


Make 4 of these

### Fuel the Rocket

1. Ask your adult partner to help you select an appropriate area outside for the launch of your rocket.
2. Fill the canister half full of water.
3. Tape the half tablet of the effervescent antacid inside the lid of the canister using a piece of double-sided tape.

4. Close the canister, quickly place it on the launch area with the lid at the bottom, and take at least three big steps backwards.
5. The tablet should produce enough gas in the canister to pop off its lid, which will propel the rocket into the air.
6. Dissolve any unreacted pieces of the effervescent tablets by placing them in a bowl of water. Thoroughly clean the work area and wash your hands.
7. Record your experimental data in the "What Did You Observe?" section.



### Where's the Chemistry?

Effervescent antacid tablets contain an acid and a base, similar to baking powder. When the acid and base are dry, they do not react, but when they dissolve in the water, they react to produce carbon dioxide gas. As the gas is formed, pressure builds up until, finally, the cap is blown off the canister and your rocket is launched.





## What Did You Observe?



How many seconds did it take for the rocket to launch after it was sealed?

\_\_\_\_\_ seconds



About how high did the rocket go into the air?

\_\_\_\_\_ meters



The American Chemical Society develops materials for elementary school age children to spark their interest in science and teach developmentally appropriate chemistry concepts. The *Activities for Children* collection includes hands-on activities, articles, puzzles, and games on topics related to children's everyday experiences.

The collection can be used to supplement the science curriculum, celebrate National Chemistry Week, develop Chemists Celebrate Earth Day events, invite children to give science a try at a large event, or to explore just for fun at home.

Find more activities, articles, puzzles and games at [www.acs.org/kids](http://www.acs.org/kids).

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## Safety Tips

This activity is intended for elementary school children under the direct supervision of an adult. The American Chemical Society cannot be responsible for any accidents or injuries that may result from conducting the activities without proper supervision, from not specifically following directions, or from ignoring the cautions contained in the text.

### Always:

- Work with an adult.
- Read and follow all directions for the activity.
- Read all warning labels on all materials being used.
- Wear eye protection.
- Follow safety warnings or precautions, such as wearing gloves or tying back long hair.
- Use all materials carefully, following the directions given.
- Be sure to clean up and dispose of materials properly when you are finished with an activity.
- Wash your hands well after every activity.

**Never** eat or drink while conducting an experiment, and be careful to keep all of the materials used away from your mouth, nose, and eyes!

**Never** experiment on your own!

**For more detailed information on safety go to [www.acs.org/education](http://www.acs.org/education) and click on "Safety Guidelines".**

