

Rocketry for Kids



Science Level 4

Guide to Space and Rocketry Activities on the Web



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NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Office of Human Resources and Education, Education Division.

<http://exploration.grc.nasa.gov/education/rocket/>

X-Prize Fun Stuff

The X-Prize Foundation is an organization set up by Larry Page, the founder of Google, to promote education, research and development in science. The X-Prize Foundation offers large prizes for the achievement of specific scientific or engineering goals. One of these is for the construction of a lunar landing craft.

As part of its educational aims X-Prize and Google have created two very good interactive models which use Google Maps and Google Earth to visualize the size of the Solar System and the sizes of well-known spacecraft launch vehicles. These are internet based activities and can be found at:-

<http://www.googlelunarxprize.org/lunar/education/fun-stuff>

You may choose to use these as a quick, fun introduction into the use of ratios and scale or you may choose to build a more detailed lesson around them.

Rocket Garden Visualiser

Students enter an address and Google Earth displays that address with four large spacecraft superimposed. Students will instinctively use their own address but this produces an impressive image if the address is a local major city with tall buildings. Google Earth must be installed on the computer and 3D buildings and terrain should also be turned on.



Knowing the height of the rockets will allow your students to measure the tall buildings in your area by comparing the images. Ideas of scale and ratios can be explored.

Scale of Solar System

Understand the vastness of our solar system... on a down-to-Earth scale. Students enter their address and Google Maps shows the relative scale of the solar system if the Earth was the size of a basketball and the Sun was located at their home. Gives a bigger mental model than those produced in the Solar System Maths unit. Google Maps must be installed on the computer.

