

Welcome back, and welcome to new participants!

In Module 1.1, we started to explore the science around air and flight. We looked at air, aerodynamics, and the forces of flight.

In this Module, we will continue to explore air and flight, and look at the science around rockets and the laws of motion. We'll finish of by using what we discover to make our own rockets! Let's take a look at a short video of a rocket launching, to get us started.



Let's watch a video clip of the American SpaceX CRS-12 Falcon 9 rocket, launching to the International Space Station, in mid-August 2017.

The SpaceX rocket lifts off with the Dragon cargo module, on its journey to the International Space Station.

Dragon delivered more than 3000 kilograms of research equipment, cargo and supplies to the space station for NASA.

Supplies included a sweet treat for the astronauts: ice cream. Small cups of chocolate, vanilla and birthday cake-flavoured ice cream arrived in freezers. Freezers were reloaded with research samples for return to Earth when the Dragon spacecraft departed the station mid-September 2017.

More information about the NASA and the SpaceX CRS-12 mission is available online www.nasa.gov/spacex.



Recap that Aerodynamics is the science of how air moves around things. It helps us to understand why different shapes move through the air differently.

Without an understanding of aerodynamics we wouldn't have planes, space rockets, fast trains and many other useful inventions.

Ask students what they know or remember about aerodynamics and planes. Are the same things important for rockets?



Lets recap on the four forces of flight. Lift, weight, drag, thrust.

Help students recognise the difference in the way the forces apply to rockets and planes. On an aeroplane, **LIFT** opposes the **WEIGHT** of the plane.

On a rocket, **THRUST** opposes the **WEIGHT** of the rocket, and **LIFT** helps to stabilise and stop the rocket from spinning.

Although the same four forces act on a rocket as on an aeroplane, there are some important differences in the application of the forces:

1. On an aeroplane, the **lift** force is used to overcome the **weight**. On a rocket, **thrust** is used in opposition to weight. On many rockets, lift is used to stabilise and control the direction of flight. 2. On an aeroplane, most of the aerodynamic forces are generated by the wings and the tail surfaces. For a rocket, the aerodynamic forces are generated by the fins, nose cone, and body tube. For both aeroplane and rocket, the aerodynamic forces act through the centre of pressure (the yellow dot with the black centre on the rocket figure) while the weight acts through the centre of gravity (the yellow dot on the rocket figure).

3. While most aeroplanes have a high lift to drag ratio, the drag of a rocket is usually much greater than the lift.

4. While the magnitude and direction of the forces remain fairly constant for an aeroplane, the magnitude and direction of the forces acting on a rocket change dramatically during a typical flight.

https://spaceflightsystems.grc.nasa.gov/education/rocket/rktfor.html



To help us understand the science / physics behind a rocket launch, we need to look at Newton's Laws of Motion.

Sir Isaac Newton, a physicist and mathematician, published his three laws of motion in 1687. Newton's Laws are a vital foundation for learning and understanding more complex physics! We looked closely at once of the three laws of motion in the previous session (Module 1.1) – does anybody remember which one? It was Newton's 3rd Law! "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction."

We can do some experiments to explore Newton's Laws of Motion, to help us design our rockets!

Extension:

Newton explained that when the forces acting on an object are balanced, there is no change in the way it moves.

When the forces are unbalanced, there is an overall force in one direction, which alters the object's speed or the direction in which it is moving.

Newton also emphasised the complicated relationship between objects and forces, which is due mainly to the effects of friction and air resistance. Without these forces, he concluded, the motions of objects are much simpler. So, his laws apply most obviously to bodies in space, such as planets and spacecraft, as there is no air or friction in space.



This is also called - The Law of Inertia

Ask students to think about how this law might relate to some everyday situations. Examples:

1. Think about a football on a field. The football is stationary until it is kicked, then it moves, until another force brings it to a halt.

2. Think about when a car brakes suddenly, and objects that are unrestrained in the car keep moving, flying forward. This is because the object's want to keep moving forward, in the same way they had been before the car slowed down.

Let's do an experiment to observe Newton's 1st Law!



This experiment highlights The Law of Inertia – Newton's 1st Law.

Encourage students use the scientific method, and form a hypothesis, prior to conducting the experiment. Encourage students to share and discuss their observations and results.

Refer to RISK ASSESSMENT for Module 1 before conducting experiment. Refer to Experiment notes (E1.2.1 in Coordinator Notes for Module 1.2)

This experiment should be performed on a surface which can get wet. Ensure paper towel / towels are available to clean up spills.

Be aware of potential allergies. Eggs can be removed from the experiment, and replaced with golf balls (or similar).

Extension: Repeat the experiment with 2 cups side by side and (2 eggs, 2 toilet rolls). Place the chopping board over both cups. See if you can get both eggs in the cups.



Heavier objects need more force to accelerate them than light objects. Ask students to think about how this law might relate to some everyday situations. Examples:

1. Think about how much force you need to use to kick a soccer ball compared to how much force you would need to kick a bowling ball. To get both balls to accelerate the same amount, you would need to put in more force for the bowling ball. (But we wouldn't kick a bowling ball, as we know this would hurt our foot!)

2. Think about how easily you can lift an empty (light) school bag, compared to lifting up a very full (heavy) school bag.

Let's do an experiment to observe Newton's 2nd Law!



This experiment highlights Newton's 2nd Law.

Encourage students use the scientific method, and form a hypothesis, prior to conducting the experiment. Encourage students to share and discuss their observations and results. Refer to RISK ASSESSMENT for Module 1 before conducting experiment. Refer to Experiment notes (E1.2.2 in Coordinator Notes for Module 1.2)



Newton's 3rd Law of motion was introduced in Module 1.1.

Ask students what they know / remember about this law of motion.

Ask students to think about how this law might relate to some everyday situations. Example:

Think about bouncing a ball. When you throw a ball downwards, it hits the ground and then bounces back up. The bounce back up is the equal and opposite reaction to you throwing the ball!



This experiment highlights Newton's 3rd Law.

This law is the key in how rockets work!

Refer to RISK ASSESSMENT for Module 1 before conducting experiment.

Refer to Experiment notes (E1.2.3 in Coordinator Notes for Module 1.2)

Encourage students use the scientific method, and form a hypothesis, prior to conducting the experiment. Encourage students to share and discuss their observations and results.

Discuss the results with the students. Highlight the air pushing out of the balloon creating **thrust**, and pushing the balloon in the opposite direction.



Ask students how they think rockets generate thrust.

Rockets can be propelled in lots of different ways!

Space rockets are often fuelled with liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen which burn very hot and give off hot gases.

Ask students how they think we make a model rocket launch?

We can make model rockets using lots of different things, including:

- Air (like the balloon rockets)
- Air and water
- Chemical reactions

Let's have a look at rocket powered by a chemical reaction...



Refer to RISK ASSESSMENT for Module 1 before conducting experiment.

Refer to Experiment notes (E1.2.4 in Coordinator Notes for Module 1.2)

This experiment should be performed on a surface which can get wet. Ensure paper towel / towels are available to clean up spills.

Be aware of potential allergies to Alka-Seltzer.

Ensure all students are observing from a minimum of 1 metre away.

Ask students to form a hypothesis about what might happen if pressure builds up inside the canister, before conducting the experiment.

Discuss the result with the students after the experiment. Was their hypothesis correct? Ask students to think about which law of motion the experiment relates to.

This experiment again highlights Newton's 3rd Law. This is a good representation of how most rockets work!



Air Pressure:

When air gets squashed up in a small space, it builds pressure.

Some chemical reactions, like the Alka-Seltzer reaction, produce a gas. If the reaction is in a small space, all the gas being produced starts to build up, creating a lot of pressure. Let's have a go at building out own rockets!



Let's have a go at building out own rockets! We will fuel our rockets with air and water, and create thrust using pressure.

Did you know there competitions, and world records for bottle rockets?

In Australia, the **Institute of Industrial Arts Technology Education** hosts an annual water bottle rocket competition for school students, called the **Australian Aeronautical Velocity Challenge** http://iiate.asn.au/events/aeronautical-velocity-challenge

There are a number of companies that make and sell bottle rocket launchers. Lets take a look at a short video from one of these companies, "Liquifly", to see what a bottle rocket looks like!



"Liquifly" works on the same principles as other rockets, with the energy coming from water and air. The action of pumping air into the bottle filled with water creates high pressure, which forces the water through the restricted opening at high velocity. This creates the thrust needed to launch the bottle high into the air.



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Students may like to work individually or in groups. Encourage them to name their rocket / team! Rocket decoration is permitted!

Design Your Rocket!

- Bottle rockets are to be made from plastic soft-drink bottles.
- Other materials may be used to improve the aerodynamics of the rocket. Think about the forces of flight!
- Water must be filled into the bottle and used as the fuel. How much you water use can make a big difference to performance!
- Air will be pumped through the launcher into the bottle until it is pressurised.
- The pressurised air will force the water out of the bottle when released, propelling it into the air.



