

Blue Sleuth Activities

Activity #3: Race to the Moon

with a Recycool Rocket

A Reuse-It Crafts Project

Overview:

Students build a toy rocket ship, a robot, or an imaginary animal, out of once-used materials.

Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards:

Please refer to the Arizona Department of Academic Standards section for the ADE standards addressed by this lesson.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- ➔ demonstrate a fun, hands-on way to reuse “trash”

You will need:

- an assortment of clean, used materials: tin/steel cans (without sharp edges), tubes of all sizes, pie plates, aluminum foil, aluminum cans, plastic containers, cardboard, magazines, newspapers, etc.
- tape or glue (packing tape works well)
- scissors
- thick markers (for naming or labeling)
- pictures of rocket ships, robots, animals, etc. (optional)
- Remember your camera!

Directions: *(estimated time 90 minutes)*

1. Discuss ways to reuse household items.

- Ask students “Does it make sense to use something once and then just throw it away?”.
- Tell them that this activity demonstrates one fun way to reuse “trash.”

2. Gather students into teams.

- The size of the teams depends on number of students and/or materials.
- Offer suggestions of what students might make or let them imagine their own designs.
- Display pictures of various things they might make such as rockets or animals.

3. Challenge the teams to create a rocket, a robot, or a rascal.

- Split the materials fairly evenly between the teams.
- If you choose to do the rockets, you can integrate the activity with a history lesson about the space race in the 1960s.
- Give students time to design and build their creations.

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4. If you wish, ask students to create a label or sign about their creation.

5. Recycle leftovers.

- Remind the students to recycle what they can of their rockets (or other inventions) when they are done playing with them! Materials that are not recyclable should be thrown in the trash, or saved to be re-used another time.

Extension Idea:

- Enter student projects in the annual RUMBA (Re-Used Materials Becoming Art) Contest sponsored by Tucson Clean and Beautiful. Call (520) 791-5000 or email recycle@tucsonaz.gov for more information.