

Investigating Air Pressure

Age level: K-6

Lesson duration: 15-30 minutes

Kit materials:

Airzooka

Stomp Rocket

Classroom materials:

Paper

Small objects of different weight

Lesson procedure:

- Bring out the Airzooka. Talk about it and have the children document their predictions of what it does.
- Show the children what it does by having it blow against their hair or hands.
- Ask them to predict what would happen if you use it on a small object or paper.
- Experiment with the paper and different objects to see what it moves.
- Sort the items into movable and not movable piles.
- Bring out the stomp rocket. Set up the use much like the Airzooka. Remind the children about the Airzooka and the experiment that you did with it.
- Discuss the difference between the Airzooka pump and the Stomp Rocket Pump.
- Ask them what will happen to the rocket if a person jumps on the pump.
- Have a child stomp on the rocket.
- Discuss what happens.

- Using the stomp rocket pump, try to move the items that were too heavy for the Airzooka. Is there any difference in air pressure?
- Let the children have a hands-on experience with the materials and see if they can find items that can be moved with both the Airzooka and the Stomp Rocket. Have them explore different ways to use both and decide on which way produces the best outcome.
- Discuss how the Airzooka and Stomp Rocket compare to a real rocket. Which parts of their behavior do we see in a rocket launch, for example?