



HOT AIR BALLOONS

Make an Air Engine

Aircraft engines provide a constant source of power (or thrust) to give aircraft forward movement.

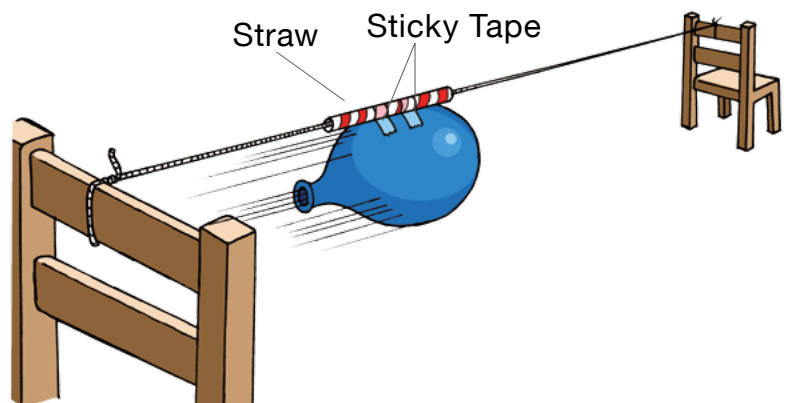
This activity will allow you to build and demonstrate a type of thrust similar to that of the engines found in jet aircraft, from which air is propelled to create forward motion. Imagine that the straw in this activity is the body of the aircraft (the fuselage) and the balloon is the aircraft engine.

What you will need:

- balloon
- straight drinking straw
- string
- sticky tape
- two chairs

What to do:

1. Thread the string through the straw and tie the ends to the backs of the chairs (as shown).
2. Blow the balloon up and ask a friend to hold the end to prevent air escaping.
3. While your friend is holding the balloon closed, tape it to the straw.
4. Move the chairs apart until the string is tight.
5. Release the balloon.



Think about it and talk about it

- The air rushing out of the balloon propels it forwards. Why?
- What happens if you put different amounts of air in the balloon? Why?