

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS

Think about why the author wrote the instructions.

Build Your Own Bottle Rocket!

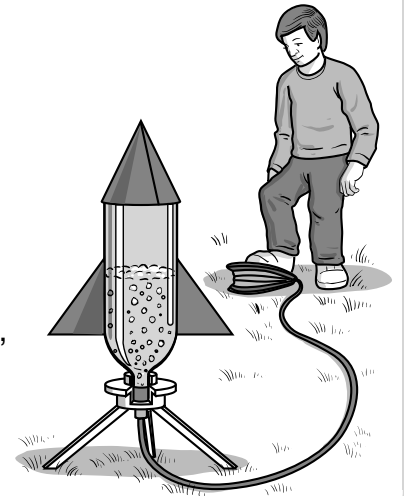
Now that you have your very own **Acme Rocket Launcher**, you can create and launch rockets that show off *your* personality and creativity.

All you need is your **Acme Rocket Launcher** and a few simple household materials:

- a 20-ounce plastic soda bottle
- scissors
- colored markers or paints
- permanent marker
- poster board
- glue

What to do:

1. Clean the soda bottle completely and allow it to dry.
2. Use the permanent marker to draw three small triangles and one large triangle on the poster board. Cut out the triangles.
3. Roll the large triangle so that two of its sides touch and it forms a pointed cone. This is the rocket's nose cone. Glue the sides of the cone so that it hold its shape.
4. Glue the nose cone to the bottom of the bottle to make the top of the rocket.
5. Glue the smaller triangles to the other end of the soda bottle, around its opening. This is the bottom of the rocket. The triangles will be the tail fins.
6. Follow the launching instructions included with your **Acme Rocket Launcher** and have a blast!


SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

1. What is the purpose of the passage?
 - (A) to teach you how to build a rocket to use with the Acme Rocket Launcher
 - (B) to inform you about types of rockets
 - (C) to entertain you with stories of rockets
 - (D) to persuade you to buy the Acme Rocket Launcher
2. Why did the author include a numbered list?
 - (A) to list the six most important facts about building rockets
 - (B) to list the six materials you will need
 - (C) to list the six steps you need to follow to build a rocket
 - (D) to list the six funniest things about rockets
3. Which of these is the text most like?
 - (A) instructions for putting together a bookshelf
 - (B) an ad for a new toy boat
 - (C) a review of different toy rocket launchers
 - (D) stories from customers who built their own rockets
4. Where would you most likely find these instructions?
 - (A) in a book of stories about rockets
 - (B) in a magazine about toy rockets
 - (C) in a science textbook
 - (D) on a Web site about drawing rockets

STRATEGY PRACTICE

Write a question you thought of while you were reading. If you found the answer, write it, too.

READ THE ESSAY Think about why the author wrote the essay.

Taco Tuesdays

Every Monday, fourth-grade students at Jackson Elementary have art class. Every Tuesday, we have music class, and Wednesday is computer class. Each week, the class schedule is the same. However, the cafeteria menu is *not*. The menu changes from week to week, and the weekly menu that we are given is often wrong. The cafeteria should have a menu that is the same each week and that offers delicious foods.

By having a menu that stays the same each week, students, teachers, and parents would know what food to expect every day. This would help us know whether to bring a lunch from home if we don't like what is being served. Also, we wouldn't need a new menu printed out each week. This would save time and paper.

People might think that fourth-graders would get tired of eating the same thing every week. But if the meals are fun and delicious, we won't mind. Most of us would rather eat our favorite foods again and again than have many kinds of foods that taste bad. For example, everyone likes tacos. If every Tuesday was taco day, then we would enjoy coming to school on Tuesdays more!

It's not fun to go to lunch expecting hamburgers, only to be served creamed corn. And it's just as bad to bring a lunch from home because the menu said we'd be eating boiled fish sticks when the cafeteria is really serving pizza. So let's make the food better and the menu predictable.

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

1. What is the purpose of the essay?
Ⓐ to explain how to plan a menu
Ⓑ to entertain you with stories about food
Ⓒ to persuade the school to change the menu
Ⓓ to teach you how to make tacos
2. Why does the author list classes that fourth-grade students take?
Ⓐ to complain about the classes
Ⓑ to show how the class schedule repeats
Ⓒ to persuade people to take more art classes
Ⓓ to inform people of how fourth-grade students spend their day
3. What is the author's main point in the third paragraph?
Ⓐ that fourth-graders will get tired of the same food each week
Ⓑ that tacos should be served every day
Ⓒ that good food is not boring
Ⓓ that Tuesday is a bad day
4. Where would the essay most likely appear?
Ⓐ in a cookbook
Ⓑ in a magazine about cooking
Ⓒ in a school newspaper
Ⓓ in a school yearbook

STRATEGY PRACTICE Do you agree with the author? Why or why not?

READ THE PASSAGE Use clues from the story and your experiences to predict what Jason will do next.**Jason and His Guitar**

Jason admired the new guitar he had received for his birthday. It was shiny and black, with red flames decorating the body. "This guitar is awesome!" Jason said. "I'm going to practice every day until I know at least three songs!"

The next day, Jason spent the afternoon looking through his microscope at rainwater he had collected from the backyard. His guitar sat in the corner of his room.

Two days after his birthday, Jason spent the afternoon trying to wrap Biscuit, the family cat, in aluminum foil. Jason was trying to make her the first astronaut kitty. Biscuit was yowling sadly. Jason's microscope sat in the corner of his room, next to his guitar.

Day after day, Jason found something new to do that he had not done the day before. The pile of equipment and supplies in the corner of his room grew.

"How is the guitar practice coming along?" Mom asked. She was making sandwiches for lunch and watching Jason dig through the recycling bin for cans he could use to make a tin-can telephone.

"Huh?" Jason said, looking up. "Oh, yeah. I'll get around to it. I'm waiting until I feel the music."

"I wish you'd feel the need to clean your room," Mom said, handing Jason his lunch.

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Based on what you know about Jason, what will likely happen after lunch?
 - Jason will ask for another sandwich.
 - Jason will throw away the cans he finds.
 - Jason will use the cans to start a project.
 - Jason will practice the guitar.
- Which of these will probably end up in the pile in Jason's room?
 - Jason's cat, Biscuit
 - Jason's tin-can telephone
 - Mom's sandwich
 - rainwater from the backyard
- Which of these is most likely to happen?
 - Jason will create more clutter in his room.
 - Jason will clean his room.
 - Jason will use his microscope again.
 - Jason will learn how to play songs.
- How do you think Biscuit will react the next time she sees Jason?
 - She will want to play with him.
 - She will knock over the tin cans.
 - She will be nervous around him.
 - She will listen to him as he plays the guitar.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Write a question that can be answered with information from the passage. Then have a partner answer your question.

READ THE PASSAGE

Use clues from the passage and your own knowledge of bees to make predictions about the African killer bee.

Flight of the Killer Bees

The African killer bee might sound like a terrifying insect, but its name isn't entirely accurate. Its real name, in fact, is the Africanized bee. And although it can be dangerous, it does not fly around killing people.

Africanized bees first came to North America from Brazil. Beekeepers in North America wanted a honeybee that could live in warm climates. The bees from Brazil were better suited for the warmer weather. However, some of the bees escaped into the wild. They formed groups called colonies. These colonies started moving north. They have now spread through the southern parts of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. However, the bees do not seem to be moving farther north. Some scientists believe this is because the bees only do well in warm climates.

Africanized bees do not try to find people to sting. However, these bees are easy to upset. For instance, they do not like the sound of motors. And they are more likely to attack than other bees are. African killer bees will also chase their victim, sometimes as far as a quarter of a mile. Therefore, if you see a swarm of bees flying toward you, move away quickly but calmly and try to go indoors. You never know what mood those bees could be in!

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- What would an Africanized bee most likely do if it heard a car?
(A) The bee would remain calm.
(B) The bee would make more honey.
(C) The bee would sting itself.
(D) The bee would become upset.
- Which of these would probably do the most harm to a colony of Africanized bees?
(A) a cool winter and warm spring
(B) a warm winter and cool spring
(C) a warm winter and warm spring
(D) a cool winter and cool spring
- If the northern U.S. climate becomes warmer, Africanized bees will probably _____.
(A) move farther north
(B) retreat farther south
(C) become calmer
(D) become easier to upset
- The best thing for someone to do if he or she is being chased by bees is to _____.
(A) run a short distance in a wide-open space
(B) make a lot of noise to scare the bees away
(C) stand very still
(D) quickly find a place indoors

STRATEGY PRACTICE

Write two other facts you know about bees, or describe an experience you have had with bees.

READ THE PASSAGE Think about why the author wrote the story. Use clues from the passage and your own experiences to make predictions.

Turtle Goes on Vacation

Turtle was wise and hardworking, and he had delivered the mail for many years. Turtle had worked for so long that no one, not even Turtle, could remember when he had last taken a day off. So Turtle's friends wanted him to have the best vacation ever.

"Go see the world," said Stork, who delivered babies to very surprised parents. Stork traveled great distances because she could fly. But Turtle could not fly and did not think one day off was long enough to see the world.

"Sleep in," said Bear, who was thinking of the warm cave where he had spent all winter. Turtle enjoyed sleeping in the mud during winter, but it was spring now.

"Find a new place to live," said Hermit Crab, who had recently traded his old shell for an empty tin can. "My new place smells like peaches!" But Turtle was not able to leave his shell the way that Hermit Crab could.

"You should go see a movie," said Owl, who worked at night. "I hear there is a new movie about owls that is supposed to be quite good."

Turtle smiled politely at Owl and nodded his head. He then called his cousin, Frog, and asked if she was free the next day. Turtle smiled broadly at her reply.

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Which of these will likely happen next?
 - Turtle will make plans with Frog.
 - Turtle will make plans with Owl.
 - Turtle will make plans with Bear.
 - Turtle will make plans with Stork.
- Why did the author write the story?
 - to give facts about different animals
 - to persuade people to take a vacation
 - to explain why turtles sleep in the mud
 - to tell a funny story about a turtle
- Frog is probably telling Turtle that _____.
 - the new movie about owls is very good
 - she has no plans for the next day
 - she is too busy to make time for Turtle
 - she is looking for a new home
- Which of these is something Bear would probably do on vacation?
 - take a nap in a hammock
 - take a cruise around the world
 - find a new cave for the winter
 - ask Frog if she is free

STRATEGY PRACTICE Before you read, write a question you have about what might happen in the story. If you find the answer as you read, write it, too.
