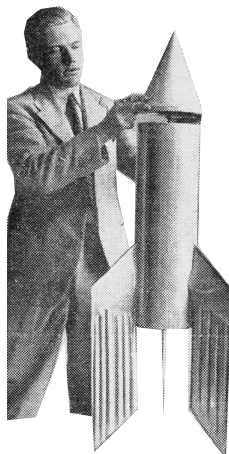# ROCKET MAIL

ROCKET MAIL

About 75 years ago an inventor called Gerhard Zucher tried to persuade the Post Office that sending letters by rocket was a great idea.

Here's a photo of Gerhard and his rocket. It is almost as tall as him!

WHY ROCKET MAIL?

Gerhard thought rocket mail could help people living on islands. When the sea was rough, boats carrying letters would struggle to land at the dock.

He thought a rocket that could travel 960 miles an hour was the perfect solution.

DID YOU KNOW?
THE ROCKET TRAVELS…

AS FAST AS A BULLET

ALMOST TWICE AS FAST AS A PLANE

10 TIMES FASTER THAN A CHEETAH

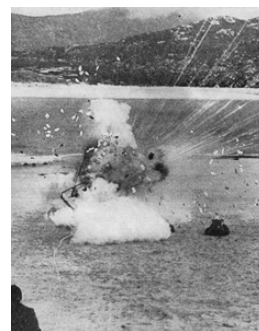MORE THAN A WHOPPING 30 TIMES FASTER THAN USAIN BOLT

FIRING THE ROCKETS

Gerhard held many experiments to test rocket mail. Rockets could hold 1200 letters. Each letter was given a special stamp like this one from an experiment in Scotland.

WESTERN ISLES
ROCKET POST

CATASTROPHE!

In one experiment two of the rockets exploded and letters shot out everywhere!
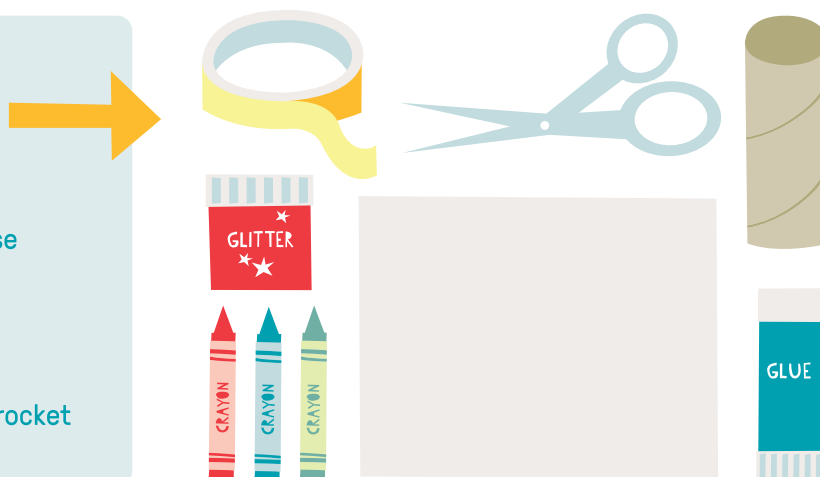
The inventor had failed to persuade the Post Office to use rockets to send letters.
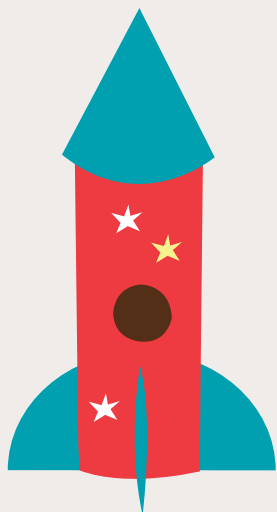
MAKE YOUR OWN ROCKET MAIL

Make your own rocket mail and take part in your own experiment. Can you think of fun ways to make it fly?

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

A cardboard tube
Card to make your rocket fins and rocket nose
Scissors
Glue
Sticky tape
Crayons and craft materials
Your post card and stamp to send with your rocket

GETTING STARTED...

THE ROCKET:
Decorate your cardboard tube – this will be the body of your rocket.
Draw two half moon shapes big enough to make the fins of your rocket and cut them out.
From the straight side of one of your fins cut a 2cm slit from the middle towards the arch. This will allow the two fins to cross over.
Cut four 3cm slits into the bottom of your cardboard tube, with an equal space between each slit.
Insert each rocket fin into the slits opposite to each other.
To make your rocket nose draw and cut out a circle, making sure it is larger than the circumference of your cardboard tube.
Cut a slit from the outside of the circle to the centre.
Fold the circle around to make a cone shape and stick both ends together.
Stick the nose to the top of your rocket.

YOUR POSTCARD AND STAMP:
Write your own post card to a loved one and cut it out.
Cut out the stamp and stick it on to your post card.
Roll up your finished post card and stick it inside your rocket.

ROCKET MAIL

As you'll be cutting the activity sheet, don't forget to photocopy the Rocket Mail information if you would like to keep it.