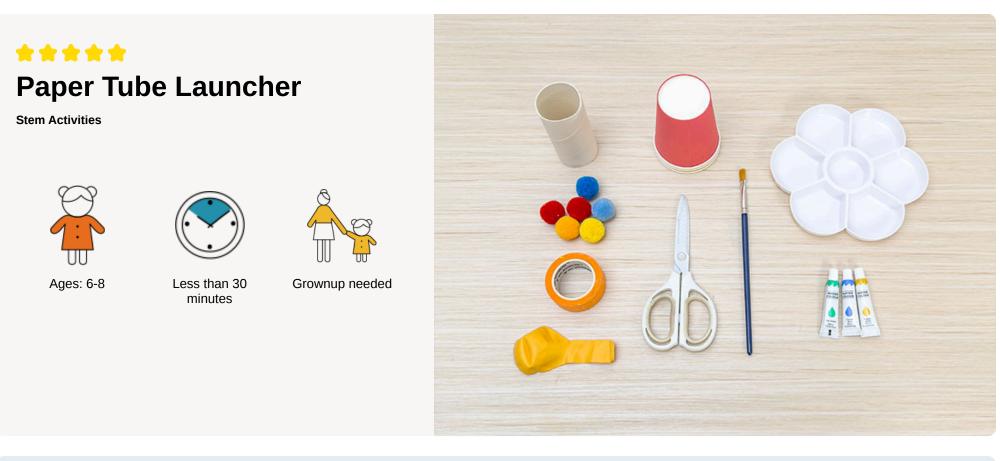
DIYs » Stem Activities » Marvelous Mechanics Motion » Age 6 - 8 » Paper Tube Launcher



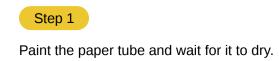
We love launchers because they're a brilliant way to play with physics! In this project, children can transform a balloon into a stretchy net to launch small balls and knock down targets. While they build their launcher, you can discuss energy transformation with them, such as potential and kinetic energy!

Materials Needed

Paper tube Balloon Tape Paint Paintbrush Palette Small balls Targets Scissors



Step-by-step tutorial





Step 2

Use scissors to cut off the inflation end of the balloon.



Step 3

Stretch the cut balloon over one end of the paper tube.



Step 4

Secure the balloon to the tube with tape, and your launcher is complete.





Place a pompom 'ammunition' into the tube.



Step 6

Pull back the balloon and release to launch the ball. Set up some targets for your launcher and enjoy the shooting fun!



The Science Behind It:

The launcher uses a balloon as its power source. When you stretch the balloon but haven't yet released it, potential energy builds up. When the balloon is released, the stored elastic potential energy quickly converts to kinetic energy, propelling the object (like the small ball) forward. This experiment perfectly demonstrates energy transformation and transfer.