# micro: bits in Space

# Rockets!



#### What Makes a Rocket Fly?



#### **Action and Reaction**

- Newton's Third Law
  - For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction
    - Rocket pushes hot gas down
    - Hot gas pushes rocket up

- REACTION
- What about a car, or a plane, or a person jumping?

#### Action and Reaction

- Newton's Third Law applies to everything!
  - When we jump...
  - We push the earth down..
  - ...and the earth pushes us up!



#### Water Rockets

- Uses air pressure to push water out
- Works just like a real rocket! (...but with water instead of hot gasses)



#### Water Rockets



Bottle forced up by water being expelled down



#### Experiment

- Why do we need the water?
- We need a volunteer...

#### What did we learn?

- When we throw a...
  - Light object: Very little force
  - Heavy object: Much more force
- If the rocket only contains air, then it will not fly well because air is very light
- What if the rocket only contains water?

- Consists of 3 parts:
  - Bottle
  - Fins
  - Nose cone



- 3 main types of launchers
  - Simple
  - Launch Ramp
  - Launch Tube

- Simple launcher
  - Rocket is unsupported
  - OK for vertical launch
  - Tends to fall over whe launched at an angle





- Launch ramp
  - Rocket is supported by a ramp
  - Otherwise the same as a simple launcher
  - Can launch at an angle



- Launch tube
  - Tube is inserted into rocket
  - Can launch at an angle
  - Tube guides the rocket keeping it straight
  - Tube also provides a boost at the start (Why?)
  - This is what we will be using! (demo)





- Bottle
  - IMPORTANT! Only use gassy drinks bottle (eg. Coke, Pepsi, Sprite)
  - Other types of bottles (eg. mineral water, green tea) are NOT designed to withstand pressure and will explode when pressurized
- Pick your bottle, wash it if it is dirty

- Fins
  - Why do we need fins?
- Experiment and test out different...
  - Fin designs
  - Fin placement (front, middle, back)



# Fins

- Helps to stabilize the rocket
- Without fins, the rocket will tend to tumble
- Should be placed near the back



- Fins (hands-on)
  - Design your fin. You decide on...
    - Shape
    - Number
    - Position
    - Attachment type
  - Choose your color
  - Cut out your fin
  - Attach it to the bottle

- Nose cone
  - Make the rocket more aerodynamic (...less air resistance)
  - Space for...
    - Sensors
    - Camera
    - Electronics
    - Parachute
  - Use tape NOT glue!



# **Flight Recorder**

- Use micro:bit
  - Record acceleration
  - Save to file
  - Display on computer
- Add this extension
  - github.com/Cybot101/pxt-filesystem