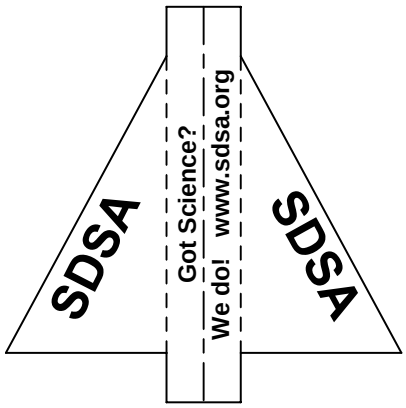
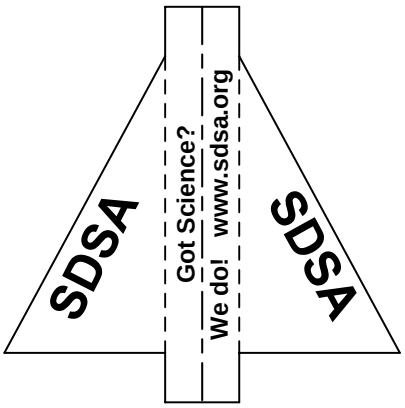
PAPER ROCKET

San Diego Science Alliance
www.sdsa.org

Print this PDF on a sheet of letter-size paper (8-1/2 x 11)
Cut off and keep the 2”-wide strip at the bottom of the sheet.
Cut out both tail fins on the sheet.
Get a straw.
Place the end of the paper strip under the straw at a 45-degree angle to the straw.
Roll the straw and paper to wrap the paper into a spiral tube.
Make sure the straw slides easily within the tube.
Tape the end of the paper strip to keep the tube from unraveling.
Fold each fin by folding the fins downward along the centerline, then folding each side upward along the two adjacent lines. When you place the fins down on a table, the center should be raised up in a “V” shape.
Tape the fins to the tube using a small strip of tape at the top and the bottom of the fins.
Cut the bottom of the tube off below the fins.
Trim and tape the top of the tube to form a point.
Spread the fins as required.
Insert the straw, aim for the target and launch your rocket!

To improve accuracy, try bending the bottom of each fin slightly in the same direction to cause the rocket to spin on its axis in a gyroscopic motion. (Look up “Rifling” on Wikipedia.)
Are there other ways to construct this rocket? Yes!! Experiment!
Want to make it an airplane? Add wings!!





Cut along line and keep strip