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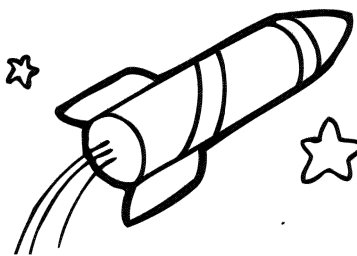
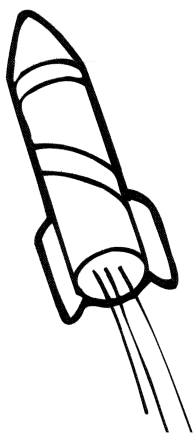
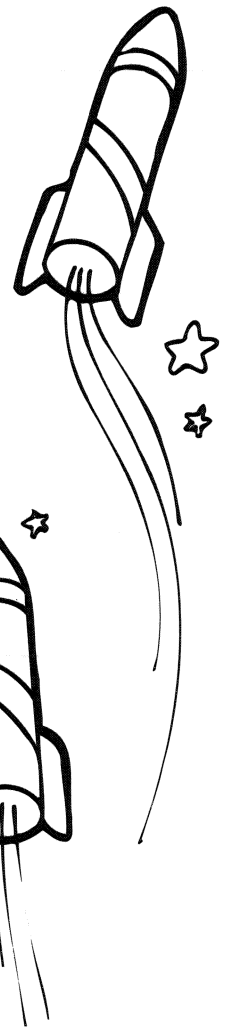
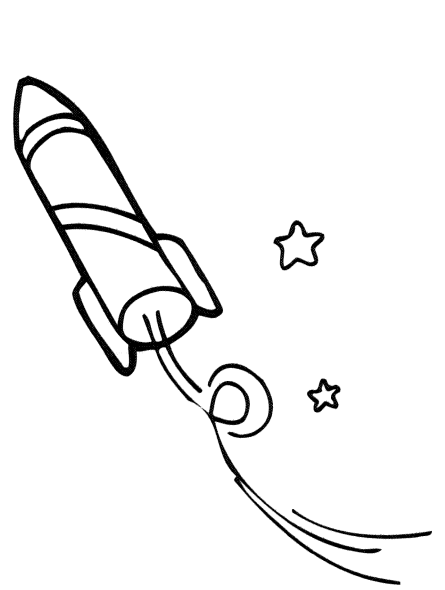
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ALL ABOUT SPACE

STARS:

Stars are huge balls of hot, glowing gases. Astronomers are not really sure why stars twinkle. They think it is because the Earth's air is moving. When light from the stars passes through moving air, the stars appear to twinkle.

MOON:

The moon is our nearest neighbour in space. It seems bigger and brighter than the stars, but really it is much smaller. It only seems bigger because it is so much closer to us than any star. There is no water or air on the moon. Our moon travels around the Earth, just as the Earth travels around the sun.

SUN:

The sun is a star. Of all the stars, the sun is closest to us. Because it is near, it seems to be the brightest and the biggest star in the sky. But it isn't. It is really only a medium-sized star.

PLANETS:

Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. Apart from the moon, Venus is the brightest object in the night sky. Mars is known as the red planet. One thousand Earths could fit inside Jupiter! Saturn's rings are made of objects ranging in size from "dust" particles to boulders about 10 metres across. Uranus and Neptune each have diameters nearly four times that of Earth. Pluto is the smallest planet.

COMETS:

A comet has an icy core and is covered by a layer of black dust. As a comet orbits closer to the sun, the ice begins to change from a solid to a gas. The gas carries away some of the dust particles and spreads out around the nucleus in a large cloud called a coma.

METEORS:

Meteors begin as bits of rock or metal that orbit around the sun. But sometimes they plunge into Earth's atmosphere. The friction makes them glow red-hot, and they are then called meteors.

MILKY WAY:

The Milky Way is only one galaxy among millions of others in the universe. Galaxies are found in every part of the universe.

