



Goddard
GLOSSARY

sound•ing

rock•et



1
00:00:00,100 --> 00:00:00,800
Sounding rocket.

2
00:00:00,800 --> 00:00:04,833
Here at NASA, we're kind of known for launching things like sounding rockets.

3
00:00:05,366 --> 00:00:06,700
Sounding rockets are smaller,

4
00:00:06,700 --> 00:00:09,433
lower-cost options for launching science to the edge of space.

5
00:00:09,800 --> 00:00:13,000
Unlike larger rockets launching satellites or people, which can be hundreds of feet

6
00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:15,566
tall, sounding rockets are about 40 to 80 feet tall.

7
00:00:16,133 --> 00:00:18,300
Sounding rockets are also known as suborbital rockets.

8
00:00:18,433 --> 00:00:21,400
They launch on a parabolic trajectory, basically a big arch,

9
00:00:21,466 --> 00:00:23,833
reaching the top of Earth's atmosphere before coming back down.

10
00:00:24,133 --> 00:00:26,866
Sounding rocket flights last about 15 minutes.

11
00:00:26,866 --> 00:00:30,266

To break it down even further, “sounding”
literally means to take a measurement.

12

00:00:30,666 --> 00:00:31,933

Because the flights are so short

13

00:00:31,933 --> 00:00:35,366

and the rockets are often reusable,
sounding rockets offer a quick, low-cost

14

00:00:35,366 --> 00:00:37,200

way to take measurements of Earth's
atmosphere,

15

00:00:37,200 --> 00:00:39,666

the Sun, X-rays in the universe,
and so much more.

16

00:00:40,566 --> 00:00:41,166

At NASA,

17

00:00:41,166 --> 00:00:44,833

we've been launching sounding rockets
since 1958, basically our very beginning.

18

00:00:45,266 --> 00:00:48,000

NASA's Wallops Flight Facility oversees
our sounding rockets program.

19

00:00:48,300 --> 00:00:50,600

We've launched them at Wallops,
as well as around the world,