



Goddard
GLOSSARY

sci•en•ti•fic
bal•loon

1
00:00:00,133 --> 00:00:01,201
Scientific balloon.

2
00:00:01,201 --> 00:00:03,903
No, we're not decorating for a party,

3
00:00:03,903 --> 00:00:06,206
but scientific
balloons can be just as fun.

4
00:00:06,206 --> 00:00:07,607
These balloons are huge.

5
00:00:07,607 --> 00:00:11,111
Some are wider than a football field,
and they offer another often cheaper way

6
00:00:11,111 --> 00:00:13,713
besides rockets and planes
to carry scientific instruments.

7
00:00:14,614 --> 00:00:17,851
Scientific
balloons can fly higher than 100,000 feet,

8
00:00:18,051 --> 00:00:20,653
giving us a clear view of space
above Earth's atmosphere,

9
00:00:20,720 --> 00:00:23,390
which allows us to look out
into the universe.

10
00:00:23,390 --> 00:00:26,493
Instruments flying on NASA's balloons
often study things like cosmic rays

11
00:00:26,493 --> 00:00:29,963
and dark matter. Balloons also provide

a way to test scientific instruments

12

00:00:29,963 --> 00:00:32,732

before they go on a larger space missions
like space telescopes.

13

00:00:33,266 --> 00:00:35,335

NASA flies
a couple of kinds of scientific balloons.

14

00:00:35,402 --> 00:00:37,470

Some are open at the end,
like hot air balloons.

15

00:00:37,737 --> 00:00:39,239

Another kind known, as super pressure

16

00:00:39,239 --> 00:00:41,908

balloons, are completely sealed,
so no gases can escape.

17

00:00:42,242 --> 00:00:45,745

Super pressure balloons can stay aloft
for several weeks and circle the globe.

18

00:00:46,546 --> 00:00:48,948

Wallops manages NASA's scientific balloons
program,