

Space Elevators

Space elevator designs often include a base station on Earth, an orbiting station in space, and a cable stretching between the two. The elevator car moves up and down on the cable between Earth and space. Some researchers think that super strong, lightweight carbon nanotubes might allow us to create a cable that can support its own weight plus that of the elevator car—making the dream of a space elevator possible.



Mondolithic



Dan Roam, © 2012

Artist illustrations of space elevator concepts

NOVA video about space elevators:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/space/space-elevator.html>





Imagine an Elevator to Space

What might the world look like if we could build an elevator to space?

- How would the space elevator work? Would you need a power source?
- Who would get to use the space elevator? Where would your space elevator start?
- Where would you go in space? What would you need to bring with you?

It's fun to imagine what our lives might be like in the future—and it's also important. We only have the things we do today because in the past, people thought about the kind of world they wanted and invented technologies to help make their dreams real.