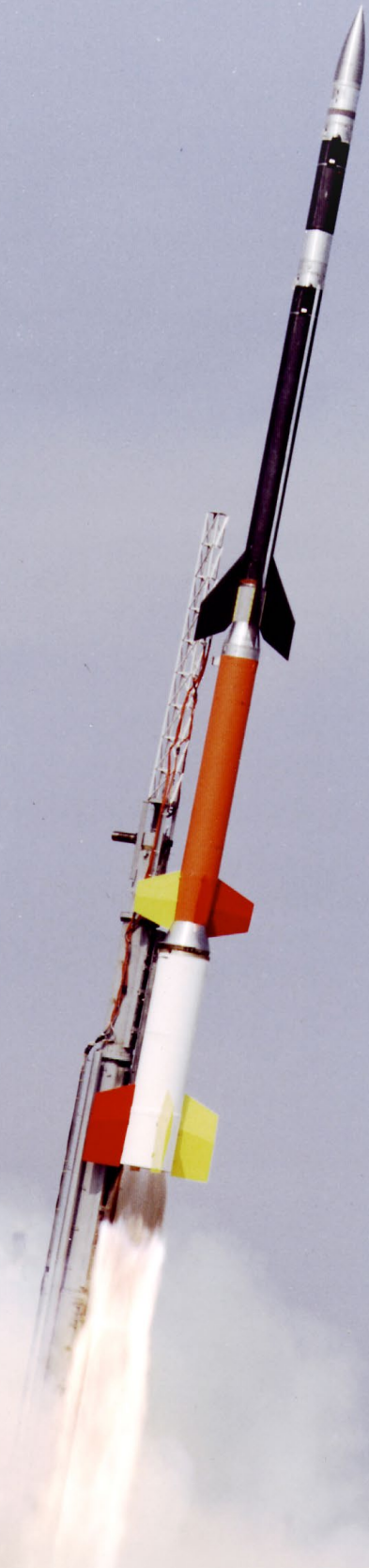
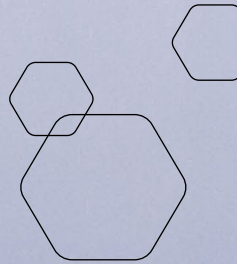


Flying Low

Sounding rockets fly through our planet's atmosphere.



Sounding rockets fly below the orbits of most satellites. These research rockets launch into a portion of Earth's atmosphere where satellites can't fly because of air friction. The friction would rapidly slow a satellite and cause it to fall out of orbit and crash to the ground. Sounding rockets have enough power to move quickly, and they only spend a few minutes in space—just long enough for scientists to conduct experiments and take important measurements of our planet and the universe beyond.



A team of NASA scientists launched the Black Brant IX sounding rocket to investigate the darkness between stars.

LEARN MORE:
[youtube.com/watch?v=KyfQish8yqA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyfQish8yqA)

A sounding rocket blasts off from a NASA facility in Virginia.