We use a propulsion system to move a spacecraft or push it up when Earth’s gravity starts pulling it down. The propulsion engine (called a thruster) burns fuel, just like a car burns gasoline. Usually the spacecraft fuel is hydrazine, a highly flammable and poisonous chemical liquid. Technicians who fuel up the spacecraft must wear protective suits and handle the fuel very carefully.

For NASA’s Green Propellant Infusion Mission (GPIM), Ball Aerospace engineers designed and built a spacecraft that burns a new fuel. This fuel will be cleaner for the environment and safer to handle, and it will more efficiently fuel future spacecraft. GPIM will launch in 2019.

Materials Needed
- Ball-point pen or large sewing needle
- Ruler
- Scissors
- White glue, glue stick, or clear tape
- Print on 11x17-in. card stock for best results.

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