

# The Wonderstruck... Compressed Air Car Workshop

## What happens?

Pupils work in teams of three to build, test and modify small cars powered by compressed air.

The session ends with an exciting race-off!

## Who's it for?

KS1 - 3

## How many can take part?

We generally run this workshop with a maximum of 300 participants.

## Workshop requirements

To run the workshop we need a space suitable for the number of participants to undertake a practical activity. For larger groups we will usually split into a number of separate classrooms for the car construction. We will need access to a large space with a smooth, flat floor for the introductory presentation and the final competition.



**WONDERSTRUCK**  
SCIENCE ON FIRE



'I was quite amazed at how fast our car went.'

I think we must be good at science!'

KS1 Pupil

## Workshop format

Pupils work in small teams to build, test and modify a simple car powered by compressed air.

We start our session with an introduction to the science behind the activity, examining the forces involved and introducing Newton's Third Law of Motion. This workshop is suitable for very young children (with adult assistance) so we can explain the science very simply if necessary.

In their teams, participants build and decorate their cars and we run a series of heats to find the Ultimate Champions.

## The science

The STEM topics covered in this workshop are:

- Forces
- Friction
- Aerodynamics

We can differentiate content according to age/ability of participants.

## Duration

Exact duration depends on the number of participants but we can deliver this workshop to 150 participants in about 90 minutes.

'So simple but so effective.'

It was great to see the children talking about science as they designed their cars.'

Ks1 Teacher



**[www.wonderstruck.co.uk](http://www.wonderstruck.co.uk)**

T: 0845 5193 325

E: [enquiries@wonderstruck.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wonderstruck.co.uk)

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Wonderstruck Ltd. Brandize Hill Farm, Petrockstowe, Devon. EX20 3HW.  
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