

A Flying Car? (October 16, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? A new electric sports car—the Tesla Roadster—capable of making short leaps into the air, thanks to ten compressed-air thrusters. 🚗

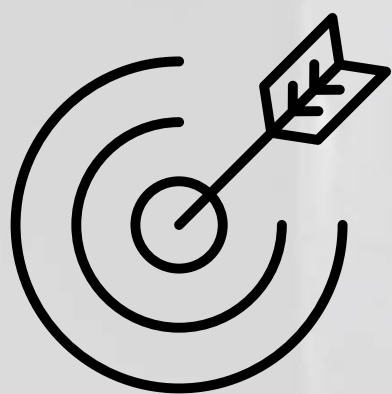
Who? Elon Musk, the head of Tesla, who developed it in collaboration with SpaceX, his rocket company.

Where? At a SpaceX testing facility in McGregor, near Waco, Texas, in the United States.

When? On the evening of Thursday, October 15, 2026, during a presentation broadcast live on the internet.

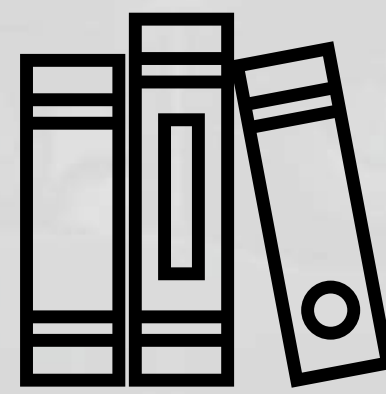
Why is it important? Because it uses rocket technology to lift off the ground—a concept previously seen mostly in science fiction films. 🚀

In this activity, your goal will be to learn a bit more about this unique car, Elon Musk and the Tesla brand.



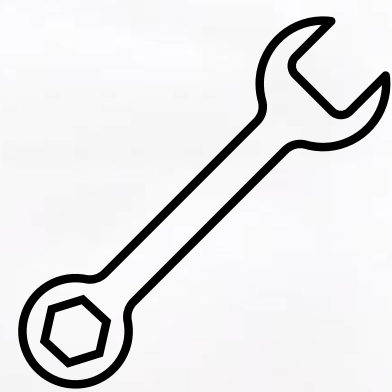
OBJECTIVES

- Discover Tesla's Roadster and its thrusters
- Find specific information in an article
- Tell an announcement apart from a fact
- Learn about Elon Musk's life
- Read a graph of electric car sales
- Calculate a difference and a growth factor



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Reading a news article
 - Finding explicit information
 - Expressing an opinion
- **Mathematics**
 - Reading a line graph
 - Subtracting decimal numbers
 - Division and growth factors
- **Science and Technology**
 - Propulsion and compressed air
 - Electric cars
 - Technological innovation



COMPETENCIES

- Read and understand an informational text
- Search for and interpret information
- Exercise critical thinking
- Read and interpret a graph
- Solve a math problem
- Express and justify an opinion



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students whether they have ever seen a flying car in a movie or a cartoon
- Ask them what they know about Elon Musk and his companies
- Watch a clip of the demonstration: does the car really fly, or does it just leap?
- While reading, tell apart what has been done from what is only a promise

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Meet Tesla's New Roadster! Reading of a TechXplore article on the Roadster's unveiling, followed by four comprehension questions and one opinion question.

Q1 — At least nine years (the unveiling was postponed many times).

Q2 — 230 mph (370 km/h).

Q3 — In 2028; be careful, because Musk often announces release dates that end up being pushed back by several years.

Q4 — To help the car accelerate very quickly on the ground.

Q5 — Answers will vary.

STEP 2 — Elon Musk, the Man Behind the Car. Viewing of a CBC Kids News video, followed by four multiple-choice questions in which students identify the false statement.

Q6 — He left South Africa to study in Australia (he studied in Canada and the United States).

Q7 — SpaceX's goal is to keep space travel for scientists only (its goal is to make it affordable for everyone).

Q8 — PayPal was an early online video game (it was a digital payment platform).

Q9 — Musk believes people should not be allowed to post false things on social media (that is his critics' view).

STEP 3 — Tesla and the Others. Reading of a graph of worldwide sales of fully electric cars from 2021 to 2025, followed by four reading and calculation questions.

Q10 — 940,000 cars.

Q11 — In 2025.

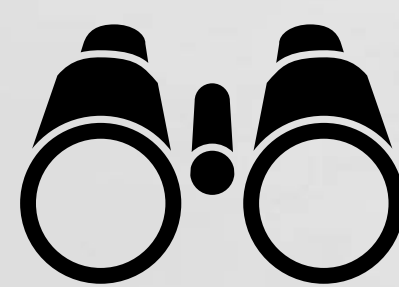
Q12 — They decreased by 170,000 cars (1.81 – 1.64).

Q13 — About 7 times bigger ($2.25 \div 0.32 \approx 7$).



WRAPPING UP

- Go back to the opening question: does the Roadster really fly, or does it leap? Compare the students' answers
- Discuss: why are opinions about Elon Musk so divided?
- Ask the students why a carmaker can lose first place, and what this shows about competition
- In teams, imagine the rules needed for flying cars to travel safely



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Peter Renson. *How Cars Work: An Illustrated Guide for Curious Kids, Teens, and Beginners.*

