

Write an important vocabulary word for each paragraph in the space below.

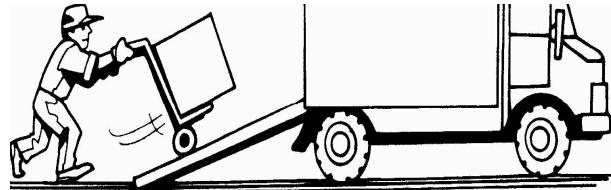
Science Shorts -6

Simple Machines

A machine is a tool that helps us with our work. All machines are made up of one or more simple machines. There are six kinds of simple machines. They are a lever, an inclined plane, a wedge, a screw, a wheel and axle and a pulley.

A lever is a long rod or bar. Think of a seesaw. The long board of the seesaw is a lever. It is held steady, but it can move up and down. Spoons, shovels and hammers can all be used as levers.

An inclined plane, or ramp, is a flat surface that is at a slant. It is used to roll or push things from one level to another. A furniture mover will use an inclined plane to roll a desk up into a truck.



A wedge is two inclined planes put together. It is shaped like a triangle. The pointy end can be used to cut or split things like an ax. Or it can hold things in place like a nail. A zipper is also a wedge.

A screw is an inclined plane. It just goes round and round. There are many kinds of screws. Most of them hold things together.

Wheel and axle machines help to move things. Have you taken a ride in a wagon? If so, then you have used a wheel and axle. A bike, a pizza cutter and a doorknob also use this simple machine.

A wheel with a groove in it can make a pulley. It has a cord that wraps around the wheel. It is used to help lift or move things. The flag in the courtyard is raised with a pulley.

Now that you know the six kinds of simple machines, you can look for them. Look at the tools you use when you play and do work at home and school. They will use one or more of these simple machines.

Picture	What is it?	Type of Simple Machine
