

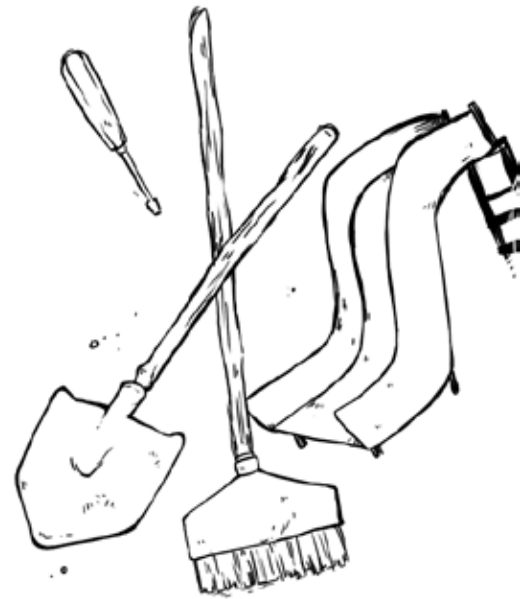
Simple Machines



Illustrated by Caitlin Weibel

Name: _____

Super Teacher Worksheets - www.superteacherworksheets.com

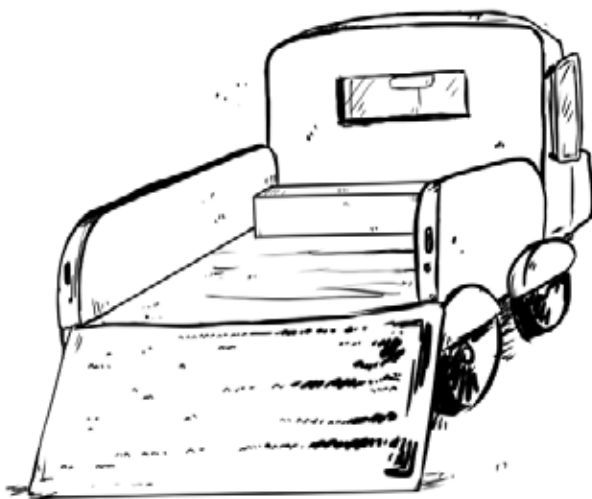


Machines are objects that make it easier for people to do work. Not all machines have lots of parts or motors.

Simple machines have only one or two main parts. A shovel, a screwdriver, a knife, a broom, and even a slide on the playground are all simple machines.

Let's learn about the six types of simple machines.

②



An inclined plane makes moving and lifting things easier. It is a flat, slanted surface that works like a ramp.

Have you ever seen someone load heavy items into the back of a large truck? They may have used a ramp, or inclined plane, to load the truck more easily.

③



A wedge is a pair of inclined planes attached back-to-back. A wedge is used to force things apart.

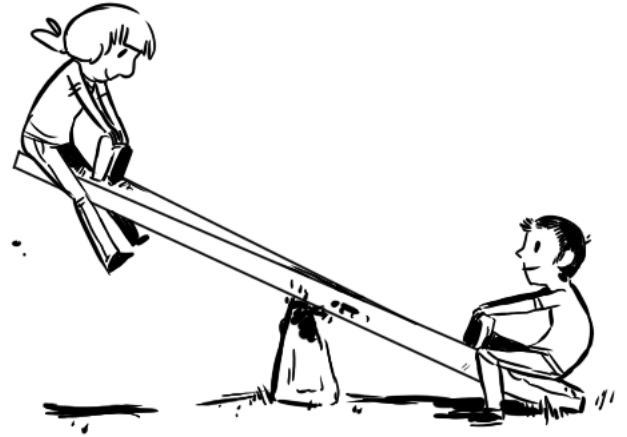
Have you ever seen someone chop wood with an ax? The head of an ax is a wedge.



④

A screw is a spiral wrapped around a center post. When you turn it, it can lift objects or hold two objects together.

Have you ever opened a bottle of water? When you turn the cap one way, it opens. If you turn it the other way, it seals the bottle shut. The cap is a screw.



⑤

A lever is a bar that pivots or turns on a fixed point. The fixed point is called the fulcrum.

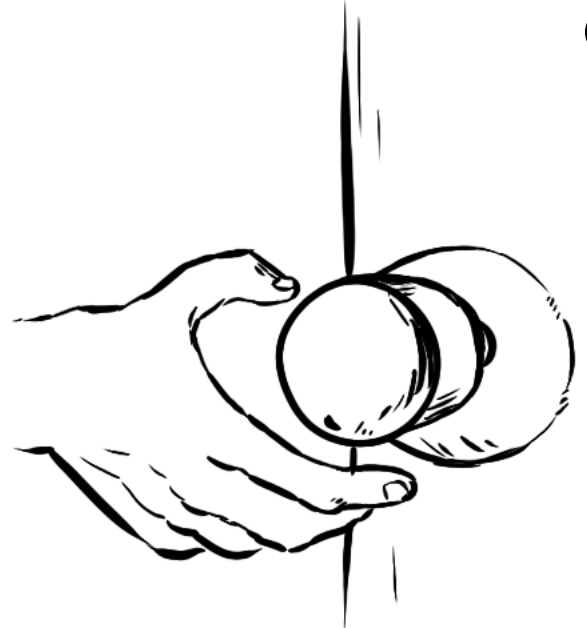
Have you ever played on a seesaw? The seesaw is a lever. The support in the middle is the fulcrum.



⑥

A pulley is a wheel that is used with a cord or rope. When you pull it downward, the other end lifts upward.

Have you ever seen someone hoist a flag up a flagpole? The flag is attached to a rope. At the top of the flagpole is a pulley. When you pull the rope downward, the flag rises up the pole.



⑦

A wheel and axle is made up of a wheel with a rod attached to it. When the wheel is turned, it turns the axle with it.

Have you ever turned a round doorknob to open a door? When you turn a doorknob, you are using a wheel and axle. The knob is a wheel. The rod that it is attached to is an axle.