



Simple Machines Vocabulary Words

Simple Machines are basic machines that make up other machines.

A wheel and axle has two parts. These two parts act as one simple machine. They roll and are found on cars, bikes and wheelbarrows.

A pulley is a rope, a wheel with a groove in it and a weight make up this simple machine. You can pull down on a rope to lift a weight or other object.

A lever can be used to lift a weight. It has a fulcrum, or pivot point, which can be located in the center, near the end or at the end of this simple machine.

Gears are wheels with teeth on them that fit together when the simple machines are turned. These simple machines are used to increase or decrease turning power by changing their size.

A wedge can be used to split things apart or hold a door open.

Screws are used to hold things together. It is made up of an inclined plane wrapped around a cylinder.

A heavy object could be rolled up an inclined plane, instead of lifting it straight up. Using this simple machine can save effort, although the object must usually cover more distance if this simple machine is used.

A Fulcrum is the fixed point on a lever that does not move.

Effort force is the force you put into a simple machine to make it work.

Work is the result of a force moving an object. You work a basketball by shooting it! Your arms supply the force, and that moves the ball. Work!