

SIMPLE MACHINES

Simple machines are low tech tools that make life easier every day! Look at these examples of simple machines, then look around your home and see how many of each that you can find!

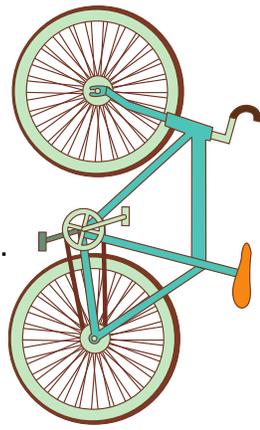
Lever

A lever is simply a plank or ridged beam that is free to rotate on a pivot. It is perfect for lifting or moving heavy things.



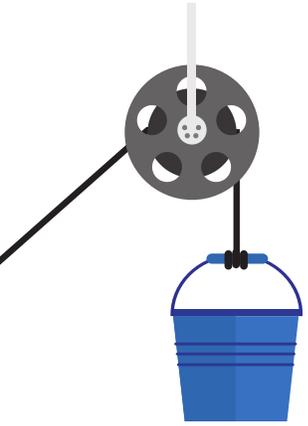
Wheel and Axel

This simple machine involves two circular objects — a larger disc and a smaller cylinder, both joined at the center. They need to be joined to be called a simple machine.



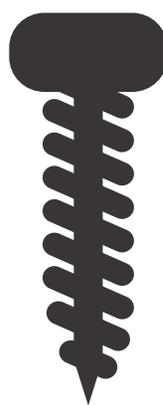
Pulley

Have you seen a flag being raised before? This is possible with a simple pulley. When you pull down on the rope, the pulley turns and the flag goes up. It is used to lift up or lower heavy objects.



Screw

A screw is simply an inclined plane around a cylinder. To describe this better you can view it as a cylinder with a head (solid top) at one end and a pointed tip (like a nail) at the other end. Screws are very useful for holding things together.



Wedge

A wedge is simply a triangular tool, often made of metal, wood, stone or plastic. It is thick on one end and tapers to a thin or sharp edge on the other end. A wedge can be used in many ways: To cut (knife), to split (axe), to tighten and to hold back (doorstopper), to hold together (nail), to scrape (blades on the snowplow or farm grader)



Inclined Plane

An inclined plane is a simple machine with no moving parts. It is simply an even sloping surface. It makes it easier for us to move objects to higher or lower surfaces, than if we lifted the objects directly upwards

