



Everyday Engineering

Simple Machines Scavenger Hunt

Simple Machines are machines with few or no moving parts that help make work easier. There are six kinds and searching for them can make for a fun scavenger hunt wherever you are. Can you find an example of each simple machine?

The Simple Machines

Lever - a beam or rod that rests on a point. A load is placed on one end and force applied to the other. Examples: scissors, shovel, seesaw



Wheel and Axle - a wheel connected to an axle. Both can rotate when force is applied. Examples: car wheels, wheels on a lawnmower, a door knob



Pulley - a wheel on an axle with a rope resting on the wheel. A load can be placed on one end of the rope and force applied to the other. Examples: flag pole, window blinds



Inclined Plane - a flat surface at an angle. It's easier to push up a ramp than lift a load. Examples: ramp, playground slide



Wedge - two inclined planes that make a triangular tool that can be used to separate or split objects. Examples: shovel, saw, teeth, doorstop (the triangular kind)



Screw - A ridged rod that turns in a circular motion. Examples: jar lid, drill bit, light bulb

