

Simple Machines

by Rob Morrison

A machine is something that does work. It makes our work easier by moving something or moving something in a different direction.

A machine can have fixed and moving parts and it transmits power or movement. It needs energy to work but cannot make its own energy.

When we move a machine, we use energy. A simple machine, such as a hammer or knife, uses energy from our muscles. A machine turns this energy into a force.



There are six simple machines:

Lever

A lever has two parts: a rod or plank and a pivot. The pivot is the point on which the lever turns or balances. Moving one end of the lever moves the other end in the opposite direction.



Slope or Inclined Plane

It is easier to roll a wheelbarrow up a slope than lift it straight up.



Wedge

A wedge does work by pushing things apart.

Sample pages