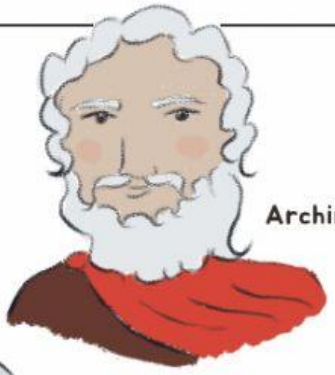
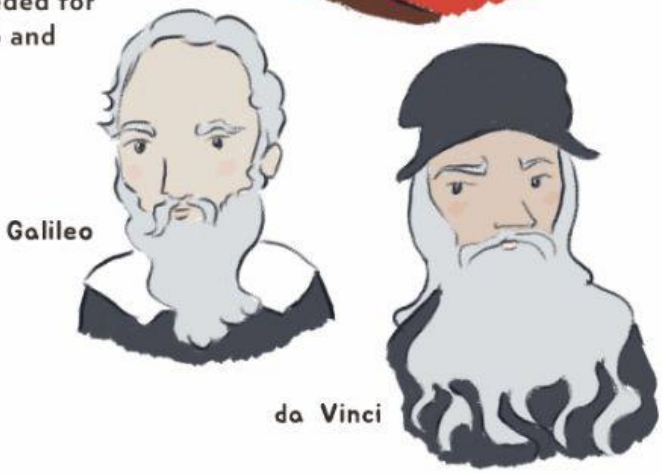
Name _____ Date _____

Simple Machines



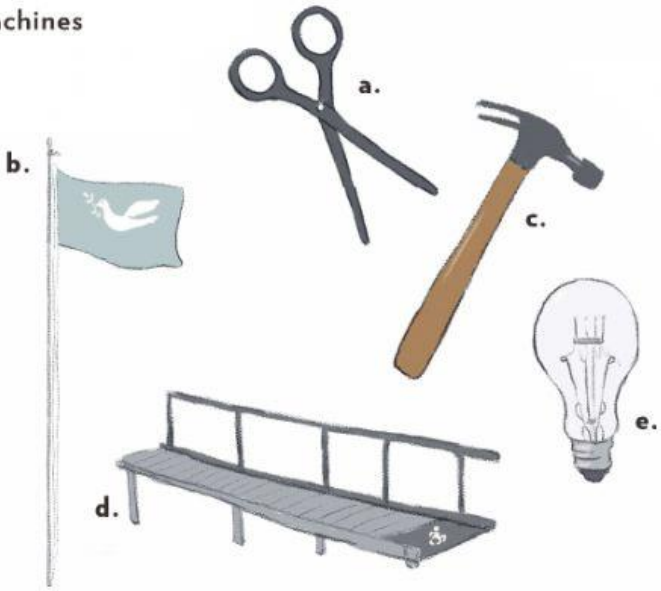
In ancient Greece a scientist named Archimedes came up with the idea that there are simple machines which can be used to make work easier. These machines could change the direction of movement and could lessen the amount of work needed for moving things. Later, scientists and artists like Galileo and Da Vinci advanced this idea and came up with the six simple machines we have today:



pulley
screw
wheel and axle
wedge
lever
inclined plane

Almost all modern machines use one or more of these six simple machines.

Directions: Read the descriptions of the simple machines and match them to the correct image.



1. A **pulley** uses grooved wheels and ropes/chains to raise, lower, or move a load by pulling on the rope. ☐

2. A **wheel**, when combined with a rod through its center as an **axle**, can be used to lift or move loads. ☐

3. A **wedge** is an object with a slanted edge which is sharp. It can be used to cut or push two objects apart. ☐

4. A **lever** is a bar that rests on a support, called a fulcrum, and can be used to lift or move loads. ☐

5. An **inclined plane** is any slanted surface that is used to connect a lower surface to a higher one. Heavy objects slide up the surface. ☐

6. **Screws** are special kinds of inclined planes that are wrapped around a pole, which holds things together or lifts things. ☐

Education.com

Find worksheets, games, lessons & more at education.com/resources
© 2007 - 2019 Education.com