

WS Science 37 – 1

Read to Learn

Main Idea Simple machines make work easier in different ways.



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What Are Simple Machines?

How would you describe a *machine*? It is anything that helps you do work or makes work easier. What machines do you use?

Many machines, such as cars, cranes, and clocks, have lots of parts. Some machines have few parts, such as a pulley or a screwdriver. These are **simple machines**. There are six types of simple machines. They are the lever, the pulley, the wheel and axle, the inclined plane, the wedge, and the screw.

These tools are thousands of years old. The Clovis point was the end of an object that was tossed or thrown. The ax was used as we use it today.

WHAT ARE THE SIX TYPES OF SIMPLE MACHINES?

Have you ever used any of these simple machines? What were you doing? You might be surprised to learn that you use many simple machines every day.

Some simple machines are called tools. Think about the tools people use every day. Builders, cooks, doctors, and gardeners all need tools to do their work.

The first tools were made by hitting one stone with another until sharp-edged pieces broke off. With these sharp-edged pieces, a hunter could easily cut the skin from a dead animal or shape spears.

People invented tools to help them hunt, gather plants, make clothes, build shelters, and protect themselves. Everything had to be invented—axes, hammers, scrapers, saws—even the wheel. No one knows who invented the wheel. Most likely it was invented between 5,000 and 6,000 years ago. Among the first people to use the wheel were the Sumerians. They lived where the country of Iraq is today.

What is the main idea?

Write two interesting things about the text.