

Simple Machines

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Glossary

compound machine machine made of two or more simple machines

distance how far something moves

efficiency amount of work a machine does compared to the amount of energy put into using the machine

effort force applied to a simple machine

energy ability to do work

force a push or pull

friction force caused by one object rubbing against another

fulcrum point around which a lever pivots or turns

gravity force that pulls objects toward the center of Earth

inclined plane simple machine that is a flat surface with one end higher than the other

inertia tendency of a moving object to stay in motion or a resting object to stay still

joule unit used to measure work

kinetic energy energy of motion

lever simple machine that is a rigid bar that turns around a fixed point

machine any tool that uses energy to make work easier

motion change of position or place; movement

newton unit used to measure force

potential energy stored energy

pulley kind of wheel with a groove for a rope or cable

resistance force exerted by something you are trying to move

screw simple machine that is an inclined plane wrapped around a rod

simple machine machine with few or no moving parts that makes it easier to do work. The six types of simple machines are the lever, pulley, wheel and axle, inclined plane, wedge, and screw.

speed how far an object moves in a certain amount of time

wedge simple machine that is a type of inclined plane with one or two sloping surfaces

wheel and axle simple machine that consists of a large wheel fixed to a smaller wheel or shaft called the axle

work result of a force moving an object over a distance