

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Simple Machines

What are **simple machines**? **Simple machines** are machines that have few or no moving parts. We use these machines to help make **work** much easier. But how do these machines help? Simple machines make our lives easier by changing the amount of **force** or the direction of the force being **applied** (added). There are four simple machines that we use most often in our lives.

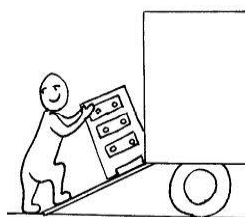
An **inclined plane** is a slanted surface that helps to either lift up or lower an object. Think of a slide. It is much easier to slide down when it is slanted than if it was straight across. A **lever** moves around a point to increase or decrease the amount of force. A pair of scissors has two blades connected to a point which helps the scissors to move.

Another example of a simple machine is the **pulley**. A pulley uses wheels and a rope to raise, lower, or move an object. Think of the American flag. When it is on a pole, we pull a rope attached to wheels to help us move the flag to the top of the pole. A **wheel and axle** also helps objects to move. The wheel and axle is a wheel with a rod (axle) through the center. Some examples of wheels and axles are bicycles, Ferris wheels, and wagons.

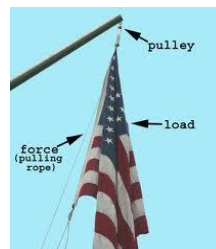
Simple machines do not change the amount of work we have to do. We would still have to push the box in order to move it from one area to another. By using simple machines to help, we are making our work easier!



Lever



Inclined Plane



Pulley



Wheel and Axle

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the main idea below. Then, write 3 supporting details from the article.

**Main Idea: Simple machines make work easier.**

**Supporting Details:**

- \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
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- \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Targets:**

1. I can read the text to determine the Main Idea.     1   2   3   4
2. I can find details that support my main idea.     1   2   3   4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the main ideas and choose the best one. Then, write 3 supporting details from the article.

**Main Idea #1: A pulley is a simple machine.**

**Main Idea # 2: Simple machines make work easier.**

**Supporting Details:**

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
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- \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Learning Targets:**

3. I can read the text to determine the Main Idea.      1   2   3   4
4. I can find details that support my main idea.      1   2   3   4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the article to determine the main idea. Record the main idea on the lines below. Then, write 3 supporting details from the article.

**Main Idea:**

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**Supporting Details:**

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<b><u>Learning Targets:</u></b>				
5. I can read the text to determine the Main Idea.	1	2	3	4
6. I can find details that support my main idea.	1	2	3	4