

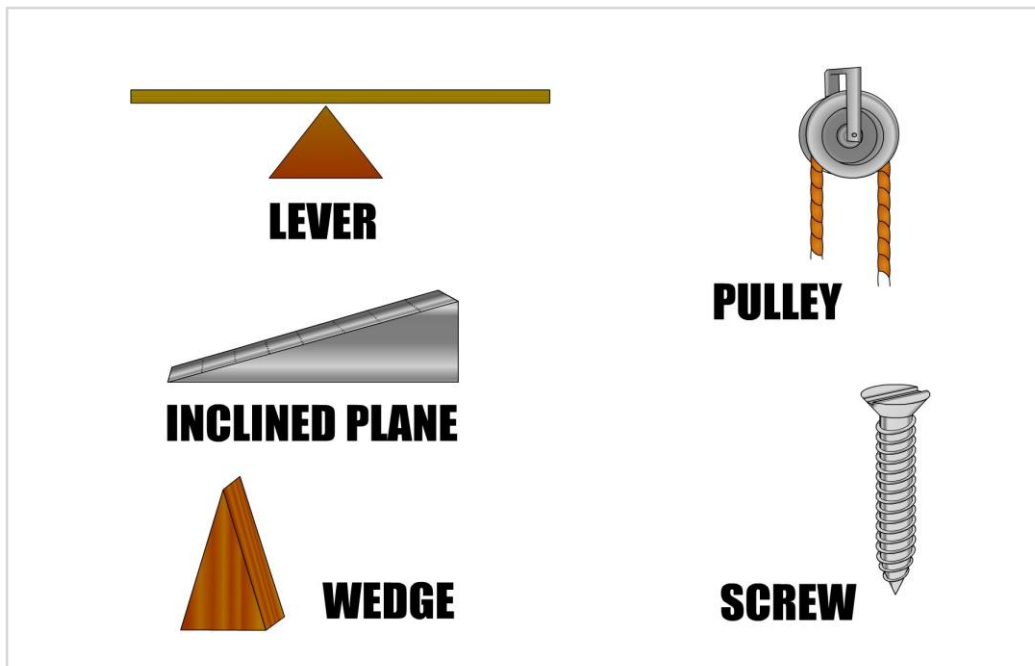
# Simple Machines

## Try It Out

Play around with a few simple machines to get a feel for how they help with work. Lift the weight up by pulling the string over the pulleys, or pull the weight up the inclined plane.

## What's going on?

First proposed by the Greeks, a **simple machine** is a mechanical device that changes the direction or magnitude of a force. Scientists during the Renaissance age theorized that six simple machines were the building blocks on which all more complicated machines were built.



## What's the big deal?

While modern mechanics have moved beyond this basic view of simple machines, these devices are still very important in the creation of machines we use today. The bicycle, for example, uses levers, pulleys, *and* wheels to move us around. Can you spot them?

*The six simple machines proposed by Renaissance scientists.  
(Image: cardillowiki.pbworks.com)*

## Wonder While You Walk...

Look around for tools you see being used around the neighborhood. What kind of simple machines do they employ? A shovel makes use of a lever and a wedge!



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