

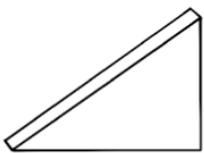
Dear Third Grade Families,

Yesterday we began our unit on Simple Machines. We will be investigating the benefits of simple machines, finding out how they provide advantage to people, and how they are used in the real world.

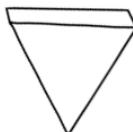
Simple machines are used all around your home and neighborhood. There are pulleys hiding in elevators and fishing poles, and levers inside staplers and scissors. Throughout the unit, please encourage your child to take a look around to find examples of levers, inclined planes, wheel and axles, screws, pulleys, and wedges.

We're looking forward to fun with forces and simple machines! On the back of this sheet, you will find the big ideas that we will learn about in this unit. If you have questions or comments, or have expertise you would like to share with the class, please let me know!

Happy Learning,
Mrs. Pelneau



Simple **Machines!**



Simple Machines Unit Big Ideas

- Work is using force (pushing or pulling) to make something move.
- We use force to overcome gravity.
- Gravity causes objects to fall.
- Machines are any tools that make work easier.
- Simple machines are important to our daily life because:
 - They help us do work
 - They make our lives easier
 - They help us work faster
- Simple machines are simple because they have only one moveable part.

Type	Description	How it Works	Examples
Lever	A stiff bar that rests on a support called a fulcrum	Lifts or moves loads	Shovel, teeter totter, nutcracker, stapler, hammer
Inclined plane	A slanting surface connecting a lower level to a higher level	Things move up or down it	Slide, stairs, ramp, hill, roller coaster
Wheel and axle	A wheel with a rod, called an axle, through its center: both parts move together	Lifts or moves loads	Car, wagon, windmill, helicopter, fishing reel, eggbeater
Screw	An inclined plane wrapped around a pole	Holds things together or lifts	Screw, jar lid, bolt, drill, corkscrew
Pulley	A grooved wheel with a rope or cable around it	Moves things up, down, or across	Curtain rod, tow truck, flag pole, fan belt
Wedge	An object with at least one slanting side ending in a sharp edge	Cuts or spreads an object apart	Knife, pin, nail, scissors, door, wedge, can opener