



Explore your world

SCIENCE

SIMPLE MACHINES

Preschool

2

GO

Pierce County
Library System

Activity

A simple machine helps us accomplish a task easier, faster or better. Six basic simple machines are: a lever, an inclined plane (ramp), a wedge, a pulley, a screw, and a wheel and axle. We use simple machines every day and don't even know it! Can you make and use a simple machine?

What you need:

- Toy or toys with wheels or stuffed animal
- Flat moveable surface: cardboard, piece of wood or a book

Try this:

1. Try to move a toy up or down a step without pushing it or making it move yourself. Did it work? No step at home? Make a step using the books in the backpack.
2. Make an inclined plane (ramp) using your movable surface over the step.
3. Try to move a toy up or down the inclined plane without pushing it or making it move yourself. Did it work?
4. Make more inclined planes to see how different ones can effect speed.

Discuss: Why did the inclined plane make moving the toy easier?

Rhyme/Song

Simple Machines

Lever, wheel and axle,

Inclined planes

Wedge, pulley, screw

Those are our names

We're Simple Machines and
we're here for you

To help in all the work you do!

Field Notebook



**Add something to
the field notebook!**

For example: Record the results of different inclined plane tests or try other simple machines and tell us how you used them.

Leave feedback at sciencetogo.pcls.us

Keep this sheet.
Collect them all!



Check out all the Science-to-Go backpacks for more fun!

PRESCHOOL Green backpacks

- Animal Babies
- Backyard Animals
- Building
- Cars and Trucks
- Colors
- Counting
- Fall
- Food
- Gardens
- My Body
- Nighttime
- Patterns
- Rain
- Seashore
- Shadows
- Shapes
- Simple Machines
- Space
- Spring
- Summer
- Tools
- Winter

GRADES K-2 Blue backpacks

- Animal Homes
- Birds
- Bridges
- Bubbles
- Dinosaurs
- Ecosystems
- Floating
- Frogs
- Flight
- Insects
- Invention
- Light
- Measurement
- Migration
- Moon & Stars
- Motion
- Ocean Animals
- Plants
- Seasons
- Silly Math
- Sound

GRADES 3-5 Red backpacks

- Animal Survival
- Architecture
- Climate Change
- Electricity
- Engineers
- Forest
- Human Body
- Kitchen Science
- Life Cycles
- Ocean
- Outdoors
- Outer Space
- Real Life Math
- Rocks
- Skyscrapers
- Volcanoes
- Water
- Weather

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