

Inclined plane

Inclined planes make it easier to move things up or down. The road in this picture is an inclined plane.

The slide on your playground is also an inclined plane.



Wedge

A **wedge** is another kind of simple machine.

An axe is a kind of wedge. It goes into the wood and splits it apart.



Screw

A **screw** is also a simple machine. The lid of a jar and the bottom of a light bulb are both kinds of screws.

Screws make it easier to put things together. Think about the lid on a jar. As you turn the lid, it screws down onto the jar, closing it tightly.



Lever

In the pictures below, you see levers. A **lever** is a simple machine for pushing things up. When you push down on one end of the lever, the other end goes up. Did you know that a seesaw is also a lever?



Wheel and axle

The next simple machine is **a wheel and axle**. The axle is a kind of rod, or bar, that goes through the wheel. Together, they turn and help things move. Cars, bikes, and wagons all use wheels and axles.



Pulley

A **pulley** is a simple machine used for lifting things. When you pull on one end of a pulley's rope or chain, whatever is on the other end goes up. The man in this picture is using a pulley to hoist the flag.

