

Information on the Mystery Simple Machines

Ice Tongs (Object #1)

Lever (with 4 fulcrums)

The points are wedges

You can reference the opening scene of *Frozen* to help student visualize the use of these. These would be used to lift blocks of ice. The clues are that while it is clearly to pick something up that you don't want to touch, the points don't come all the way together and you wouldn't need sharp points like that for most other things to be grabbed. People needed blocks of ice to keep food cool before refrigeration.

Clamp (Object #2)

Screw

This is for holding things in place while working on them. Clamps (or vices) are still common today, but might look different. The part that looks like a screw is turned to widen or shrink the size of the opening.

Grater (Object #3)

Wheel & Axle

Used for grating cheese and other things. The shape makes it particularly good for grating cheese, which is usually made in large, round blocks. The block of cheese would be held against the front part. Turning the handle would then turn those sharp pieces against the cheese.

Bark Break or Barking Spud (Object #4)

Wedge

This tool is used to take bark off of wood. It looks a bit like an axe but the sharp part is on the wrong side. The blade would be placed against the log and then the other end would be hammered to slice off the bark (hence the iron reinforcement on the end of the handle, and also the damage on that end).