



MUSEUM OF EARLY
TRADES & CRAFTS

Simple Machines

(1st to 2nd Grade)

PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Identifying machines in your life

1. Make a list of some the machines that can be found in your classroom or home.
2. Describe how the machines work.
3. Indicate how each machine helps you.
4. Find a machine that does each of the following functions:
 - a. Makes a job easier.
 - b. Makes a job faster.
 - c. Makes the outcome more accurate.

SUGGESTED POST- PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Finding Simple Machines

Simple machines are all around us! Use the worksheet on the next page to have your students find simple machines in their home or classroom.

Invent your own machine:

Ask your students to think about a chore or task that takes a lot of hard work. How could they make that job easier? Have them invent a machine that will do the job for them!

You may find our [**Invention Activity**](#) to be a helpful guide for this process, just be sure the focus is on using simple machines in whatever tool, or machine, they make.

Their invention should include:

- A combination of several simple machines
- A description of what the machine will do
- A description of how the machine works
- An illustration/diagram of the machine
- The name of the machine



Finding Simple Machines

Now that you have seen historic examples of simple machines, it's your turn to find some in your own home!

As a reminder, the 6 Simple Machine are:

- Lever
- Wedge
- Wheel & Axle
- Screw
- Inclined plane
- Pulley

Look around your home and try to find at least 1 example of each type of simple machine. Some items might contain more than 1 simple machine!

In the left-hand column, list the items. In the middle column, list what simple machine(s) it uses. On the right, explain how this machine helps you or your family.

Find Simple Machines!	What Simple Machine does it use? (Some objects may include more than 1!)	How does this machine help you, your family, or your class?
	Lever Inclined Plane Wheel & Axle Screw Incline Plane Pully	
	Lever Inclined Plane Wheel & Axle Screw Incline Plane Pully	
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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact the METC Education Department at 973-377-2982, x12 or education@metc.org