

SIMPLE MACHINES

KEY CONCEPTS

Review with your students before your visit. Students should be familiar with basic lab techniques such as using a microscope and following written lab procedures.

Work = Distance X Force

WORK

Using force to move an object over a distance.

DISTANCE

Length between two points.

FORCE

A push or pull that causes an object to move.

LEVER

A bar used for raising or moving weights centered on a fulcrum (turning point).

WHEEL AND AXLE

A moveable simple machine (wheel) centered on a fixed point (axle).

INCLINED PLANE

A flat surface with one edge raised higher than the other.

PULLEY

A simple machine with one or more grooved wheels connected by a rope.

SCREW

A specialized inclined plane used to raise and lower objects as well as hold objects together.

WEDGE

An inclined plane that is thick at one end and tapers to a point at the other end, often used to separate objects.