

Project glossary

compound machine

A machine that uses a combination of simple machines, such as a pair of scissors.

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effort

The force used to make something move.

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first-class lever

A lever that has its fulcrum between the load and the effort, such as a seesaw.

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force

A push or a pull.

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friction

The force between two surfaces as they move across each other.

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fulcrum

A fixed point around which a lever pivots.

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inclined plane

A simple machine consisting of a slope between two levels.

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lever

A simple machine consisting of a rigid bar that pivots on a fixed point called a fulcrum.

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load

The weight lifted by a machine.

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prototype

A first example of a machine or product that is created to see if a design will work.

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pulley

A simple machine consisting of a small wheel over which a rope or chain attached to an object can be easily pulled or released.

pyramid

A structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides used as a royal tomb in ancient Egypt.

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rigidity

The quality of being stiff, fixed, or impossible to bend.

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score

To make a mark or shallow cut on the surface of something hard with a pointed tool.

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screw

A simple machine consisting of a long, inclined plane, called a thread, that is placed around a cylinder.

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second-class lever

A lever that has its load between its fulcrum and the effort, such as a wheelbarrow.

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simple machine

A device that makes physical tasks easier by changing the direction or magnitude of a force.

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third-class lever

A lever that has its effort between the fulcrum and the load, such as a pair of tongs.

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wedge

A simple machine that consists of a triangular tool that is thick at one end and thin at the other.

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wheel and axle

A simple machine that consists of a bar connected to the centre of a wheel that allows or causes it to turn.