

## Teaching News Is Elementary September 16, 2016

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

**Materials you will need for this lesson:** The Seattle Times e-Edition, pencil and paper, online access, dictionary

**Article: “Simple Machines are Super Machines”**

**Page: NWThursday, B5**

**Date: Thursday, September 15, 2016**

### Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

What is a machine? Make a list of machines that you use in your average day. Take your list of machines and sort them into categories. Name the categories. What categories did you choose and why?

### Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and create your own definition of the the word based on how it’s used in the sentence. Compare your definition with a partner – how are your definitions similar? How are your definitions different?

“**Work** is the action of force moving across a distance.”

“**Simple machines** are the simplest means of accomplishing something faster or better, or to make work easier.”

“Often this is by allowing us to pull or push something over a longer distance so that we can use less force to do the same amount of work. This is also called **mechanical advantage**.”

“When two or more simple machines work together, they create a **complex or compound machine**.”

### Journal Writing Prompts:

“**Simple machines have few or no moving parts, and tend to do work in a singular movement. There are six simple machines that you should know about: the lever, wheel and axle, inclined plane, wedge, pulley, and screw. These simple machines can be found in all kinds of places, including at the Washington State Fair.**”

See if you can come up with an example of each one of the following simple machines (you might also want to draw out your example):

- Lever
- Wheel and axle
- Inclined plane
- Wedge
- Pulley
- Screw

### **Discussion Questions:**

“Simple machines are the simplest means of accomplishing something faster or better, or to make work easier. Often this is by allowing us to pull or push something over a longer distance so that we can use less force to do the same amount of work. This is also called mechanical advantage.”

What defines a machine? What makes a simple machine, “simple”? Now that you know more about simple machines, what are some simple machines that you use in your everyday life? Do you use any complex machines in your everyday life? What would your life be like without machines?

### **Small Group Discussion and Activity:**

View some pictures of Rube Goldberg Machines by visiting <https://www.rubegoldberg.com/> online. What do you notice about these machines? What is the purpose of these machines? Do you think they actually make things easier? How many simple machines can you spot inside these machines? Decide on your own task to create a Rube Goldberg machines for. Draw out a picture of your machine! If you have access to materials, you might even try to create your machine and try it out!

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