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# Simple Machines

## (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 2)



## **Synopsis**

Machines help make work easier, like when you need to lift something heavy or reach way up high. There are six simple machines: the lever, the wheel and axle, the pulley, the ramp, the wedge, and the screw. Can you adjust a seesaw to lift an elephant? What happens when you combine two or more simple machines? Read and find out! With colorful illustrations and engaging text, *Simple Machines* will delight young readers who love figuring out how things work. Featuring rich vocabulary bolded throughout the text, this book also includes a glossary and a find out more section with a lever experiment and web research prompts. Both the text and the artwork were vetted for accuracy by Dr. Babatunde A. Ogunnaike, dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Delaware. This is a Level 2 Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science title, which means the book explores more challenging concepts for children in the primary grades and supports the Common Core Learning Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) standards. Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science is the winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science/Subaru Science Books & Films Prize for Outstanding Science Series.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Machines are everywhere! They help make work easier, like when you need to lift something heavy or reach way up high. Some machines are so simple that you might not think of them as machines. There are six simple machines: the lever, the wheel and axle, the pulley, the ramp, the wedge, and the screw. Can you adjust a seesaw to lift an elephant? What happens when you combine two or more simple machines? Read and find out!

D. J. Ward is a high school science teacher who also writes science books for children. His titles include Exploring Mars, Materials Science, and another book in the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series, What Happens to Our Trash? He lives in Castle Rock, Colorado. Mike Lowery has illustrated numerous children's books, including the Ken Jennings' Junior Genius Guides series and What Can a Crane Pick Up? by Rebecca Kai Dotlich. A professor of illustration at the Savannah College of Art and Design, he lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Great book for little kids and I have taken to school for my struggling students.

Great book, specially if you are teaching simple machines.

Perfect for 3rd grade VA curriculum when learning about simple machines. Love all of the real world examples given in the book.

Good explanations. We're using it along with K'NeX intro to simple machines.

Another good read aloud in class.

Summary: Machines make work easier. The six simple machines—lever, wheel and axle, pulley, screw, ramp, and wedge are all around us, helping us in our everyday life. This book looks at each simple machine in turn, describing how it works and showing common examples. Compound machines are briefly explained, too. End matter includes a lever activity called "Seesaw Cents", a glossary, and a couple of websites to check out for more simple machine information. Grades 1-5. Pros: Started in 1960, the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series is one of the best for explaining scientific concepts to young children. There are two levels (Simple Machines is level 2); level 1 could be used with preschoolers, and level 2 is appropriate for all elementary grades. They provide basic but thorough explanations told in a down-to-earth tone with

plenty of real-world examples and fantastic illustrations. I challenge anyone to find a basic scientific concept that hasn't been written about in a Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science book. Cons: You might not get all your questions about how simple machines work answered in this book. It's a good starting point, not a comprehensive treatise.

I picked this book up for my 3 year old son, who is fascinated with all things mechanical. I didn't think he would be into the book all that much, but he insists on reading it every night for the last 3 months. PRO PARENTING TIP: This book is best used in conjunction with some practical examples to go along with it. For example, after reading about levers, we built our own lever out of a board and used some random objects as a fulcrum. This has since become a nearly nightly routine and he now points out levers and fulcrums everywhere you go.

great illustrations and explanations

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