

Making Work Easy

Topic: Technology/Inventions

Curriculum link: Physical Science

Text type: Explanation

Reading level: 19

Word count: 527

Vocabulary: attached, cable, chain, crane, groove, hand trolleys, flagpole, levers, load, pulleys, pulley wheel, rod, safety harness, wheelbarrow

Possible literacy focus:

- Understanding how pulleys and levers work.
- Recognising the difference between questions and statements.

Follow-up activities

Understanding text structure: Explanation

Explore the structure of an explanation with the children. This type of text usually presents a general statement about the topic (introduction) followed by specific explanations. A conclusion sums up the topic. Show children the contents page and how it helps us to locate information. Point out the headings on each page and why we need them. Explore the index and its use. Discuss the facts about pulleys and levers, and the examples given. Show the children the puzzle page at the end of the book.

Exploring the illustrated diagrams

Ask the children to turn to page 6.

What does this illustrated diagram tell us?

How does it help you to understand the concept?

How would you have understood the information without the illustrated diagrams?

Ask the children to look at all the diagrams in the book with a partner.

What other information do you want to know about pulleys and levers?

Why do you think that the author decided to use these illustrated diagrams in the book? Do you think it works? Why or why not?

Simple machine hunt

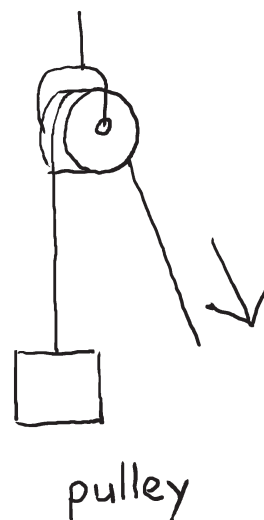
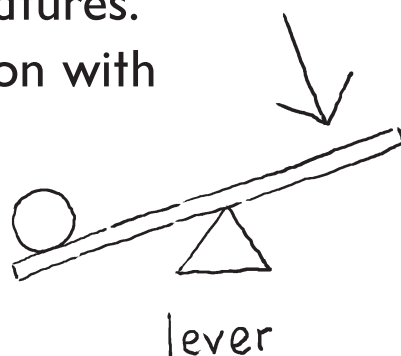
Make a list of the different pulleys and levers that were shown in the book. Now ask the children to go on a hunt for other simple machines around the school or at home. Allow time for the children to share their findings with the rest of the class. Some of these pulleys and levers may be shown or demonstrated to the class while others that are too big or awkward could be described and discussed.

New invention

You will need:

large piece of paper, pencils, felt pens

1. Think about a design of a brand new machine that includes a simple pulley or lever.
2. Draw a picture of your design.
3. Label its special features.
4. Share your invention with the class.



Double letter word hunt

You will need:

paper, pencils

1. Look for all of the words in *Making Work Easy* with double letters in them.
2. Write the words with double letters in the middle in one group and words with double letters at the end in another group.
3. Share the words that you have found with a friend.

double letters
↗

Questions and statements

Put a question mark or a full stop at the end of these sentences to show whether they are questions or statements.

Some things are very heavy

What is a lever

If heavy things need to be moved, they can be attached to one end of the rope

The safety harness is attached to a rope that runs over a pulley at the top of the building

How do rock climbers stay safe

How do you get a flag to the top of a flagpole

A lever is a bar or rod

Pulleys are used to raise and lower flags

How do scissors work to cut paper or fabric

A hand trolley is a lever

Pulleys and levers are used to lift and move things

Now write your own questions and statements. Share these with a friend.

Summary grid

Write about pulleys and levers using the following headings.

	What are they?	How do they work?	Examples
Pulleys			
Levers			

Instructions Explain to the children that this summary grid could be filled in using bullet points. The examples could be drawn and labelled.