

Simple Machines Newsletter

OBJECTIVES

The grade 6 English science unit, Simple Machines, is an additional unit in the English science program. It is a unit designed for display at the English Science Fair. The objectives state that students should:

- a) State the different forms of simple machines.
- b) State that simple machines reduce the force needed to do work.
- c) Describe the tradeoff between force and distance when using simple machines.
- d) Build a balloon popper.

VOCABULARY

The vocabulary used in English science is very specific and often difficult for students learning English as a third language to grasp. Some key vocabulary is listed here for parents to help their children prepare for classes. Additional vocabulary worksheets are also attached as part of the newsletter for students to complete as homework in an attempt to make the lessons accessible to all students of all abilities.

Key Words

Force
Work
Simple machine
Levers
Wedges
Inclined planes
Wheels and axles
Screws
Pulleys
Complex machine

EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES

The activities and experiments completed in class are selected from popular resources used in English speaking countries. The exploratory activities for this unit can be found on my website abrownkts.weebly.com.

- The main activity for this unit is to design and create a machine that uses the six simple machines studied in class to pop at least one balloon.

