Six Simple Machines

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A simple machine helps people do a job. It changes the direction something moves, or how much force the job takes. There are six of them.

A lever rests on a pivot point, called a fulcrum, and moves a load, like a seesaw. A wheel and axle turns or moves a load: a bicycle has them, and so does a clock. A pulley uses a wheel to change the direction something moves, as in an elevator or a water well.

An inclined plane is a slanted surface, like a ramp or stairs, that makes things easier to move. A wedge, like a knife, splits things apart. A screw helps fasten two things together; the cap on a bottle is a screw too.

Two or more simple machines working together make a compound machine. A crane, a bulldozer and a pencil sharpener you turn by hand are all compound machines.

1. **How many simple machines are there?**

2. **What is the pivot point of a lever called?**

3. **Which simple machine is a ramp, and what does it do?**

4. **A pair of scissors is a compound machine. What does that mean?**

Answer key

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1. How many simple machines are there?
   Six.

2. What is the pivot point of a lever called?
   The fulcrum.

3. Which simple machine is a ramp, and what does it do?
   An inclined plane. It makes things easier to move.

4. A pair of scissors is a compound machine. What does that mean?
   Sample answer: two or more simple machines work together in it.