

Levers

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A lever is a simple machine. Levers make doing work easier. The lever is a long tool that lifts other objects. Levers have two parts. One part of a lever is a bar. Another part of a lever is a fulcrum. Levers are sticks that are free to pivot. Levers pivot at a certain point. To pivot means to move back and forth. The point on which a lever pivots is called the fulcrum. Extra power can be gained with less effort by changing the position of the fulcrum. The fulcrum is near the middle of the bar. When you apply a force to one end of the bar, the opposite end goes in the other direction. Levers use a small force to move a big load. Leverage is the action of a lever to influence things. An example of leverage is the motion of a seesaw. Levers are all around us. Wheelbarrows use levers. Crowbars are levers. Crowbars pry objects by lifting them with force. Natural levers are on your body. Arms are levers. Jaws are levers. Levers make jobs easier.