



# Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan

## Simple Tools

**School:** Veterans Memorial School  
**Subject:** Science

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**Grade:** 2

### Introduction:

Students will learn about simple tools and machines including things like: the wheel-and-axle, the pulley, the wedge, the lever, the inclined plane, and the screw.

### Objectives:

- Students will identify familiar machines and tools.
- Students will be introduced to six simple machines.
- Students will invent their own simple machine.

### Materials:

- Examples of simple machines like scissors, hammers, screws, fans, ladders, etc.

### Pre-Visit Activities:

1. Show students a pair of scissors and a hammer. Ask what they have in common (both are simple machines / tools).
2. Ask students to brainstorm machines / tools they know how to use at home.
3. Provide students with definitions and background:
  - a. Machines help us do work faster and more easily.
  - b. Complex machines are made up of one or more simple machines.
  - c. There are six simple machines: lever, pulley, wheel-and-axle, inclined plane, wedge, and the screw.
  - d. Show students examples of each tool from illustration and actual machines.



Some iron tools from the Saugus Iron Works collection.



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## On-Site Activities:

Then take a walking field trip to the Saugus Iron Works. Give each student a worksheet. The students will complete the worksheet as we go on the tour through the Iron Works. The students will listen to the parks instructor give their lecture on simple machines. After the tour, discuss the simple machines that the students found throughout the day.



An Iron Works foot path.

## Assessment:

The students will be placed in cooperative groups of four and will create their own simple machine complete with drawing and summary.