

The Simple Machines Song

Oh sing me a song about simple machines,
And the way, hey, they help us all day;
They let us trade distance for force that we need,
They give us more power and leverage and speed.
The levers and wedges and pulleys and screws
And the inclined planes that we use,
Will lift things and pull things and turn work to play,
And the wheel and the axle will roll them away.

The Lever Rap

If you have a job that's hard to do,
Like pulling a nail or turning a screw,
Your fingers won't do it, so be very clever
You need a machine that's called a lever!

Levers come in classes-- first, second third.
Force, load and fulcrum are the key words.
In a first class lever, the fulcrum's in the middle.
If I seesaw with you, you seem to weigh little.

A second class lever has the fulcrum at one end,
The load's in the middle-- give a ride to a friend
In a big wheelbarrow where force is your muscle;
If you call your friend "The Load," you'll get into a tussle!

If you want some speed to swat or bat,
The third class lever is where it's at.
The fulcrum's at one end, the load's at the other,
The force is in the middle, but don't hit your brother!

When you use any lever, you'll find, of course,
You can always trade distance for a gain in force.
If you make the lever long, moving loads is a snap.
And this is the end of the Lever Rap.