



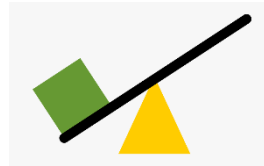
SIMPLE MACHINES (3-5)

The SCIENCE of MACHINES:

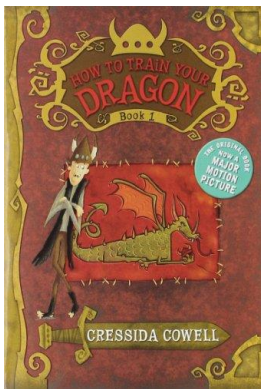
A **machine** is something with parts that perform together to accomplish a task or do work.

Simple or basic machines help apply forces more efficiently. Examples are an **inclined plane**, a **wedge** and **lever** or a **pulley**.

Machines are even used to help the human body. A **prosthetic** is an artificial body part, like an arm or leg.



LITERACY CONNECTION:

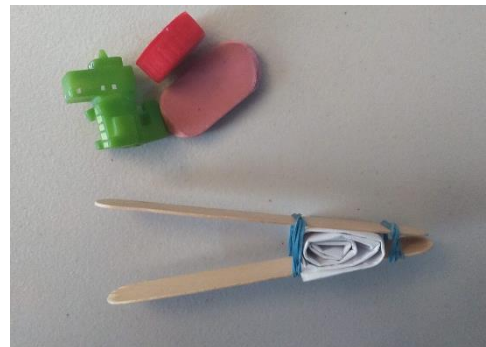


[How to Train Your Dragon](#) by Cressida Cowell highlights the trials of a young Viking who uses his creative mind and inventions to make life better for everyone – even dragons! Saw the movie? Now try [reading](#) the book that inspired it all.

ACTIVITY: BUILD a GRABBER

Materials: 2 six-inch rulers (or sticks, chopsticks, etc.), 1 sheet of paper, two rubber bands (optional – small items to pick up)

1. Turn the piece of paper sideways and fold it in half over and over until it is a lengthwise strip about 1 ½ inches wide.
2. Roll up the strip of paper and place it between the two sticks, 1-2 inches from one end.
3. Wrap two rubber bands around the sticks, one on each side of the rolled-up paper.
4. Test your grabber by picking up different objects.



EXPLORE: Race to pick up as many different items as possible with your mechanical grabbers. You can race against a partner or try to beat your own time!

For step-by-step instructions, watch the video at: [Simple Machine STEM Activity](#)

This at-home educational activity is from the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's literacy-based Stories & STEM program. Stories & STEM is made possible with support from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., which receives significant funding from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Having fun? Send pictures or video links of you and your Stories & STEM projects to csharkey@literacypbc.org