

MAKING MACHINES

KEY IDEAS

- Machines make work seem easier to do
- Energy is needed to make machines work
- Energy is transferred from its source to where it is needed
- Levers, ramps, pulleys and gears make tasks easier by transferring energy to where it is needed

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- What do you think a machine is?
- What different machines do you know?
- What makes machines 'go'?

MACHINES MAKE TASKS EASIER

- Machines are devices that are designed and used by people to make jobs easier.
- Some examples of machines are lawnmowers, sewing machines and computers.

MACHINES NEED ENERGY TO MAKE THEM OPERATE

- Energy is essential for machines. Some simple machines get the energy they need from human muscles.
- Some require other sources of energy, such as electricity, heat, chemical or nuclear power, or the movement of wind or water.
- Some machines keep replaceable or rechargeable energy stored inside them (batteries or wind-up springs, for example); others get heat energy from fuels, such as oil, coal and wood.
- Other machines are attached to centrally supplied energy sources (electrical

power lines and gas mains).

- All machines need a source of energy to make them operate.

MACHINES INVOLVE THE TRANSFER OF ENERGY

- All machines take energy from one source and transfer it to another.
- A pair of scissors takes energy from our hands and transfers it to the cutting blades.
- A car takes the stored energy in petrol and transfers it into heat in the engine and then from the engine to the wheels.

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