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Dig into Reading VOCABULARY LIST

Here is a list of the words and concepts important to simple machines, inventions, and working smarter not harder. Steve may introduce/reinforce a few of these in the course of the Dig into Reading program. The words are presented in context and then defined which helps in creating a meaningful reason for the children to assimilate the information.

axle – the supporting bar or rod on which a wheel turns. Sometimes an axle will support one wheel, as on a wheelbarrow; or two as on a wagon.

bearing – the part of the wheel which touches the axle as a wheel turns. There are three kinds of wheel bearings: sleeve bearings, roller bearings, and ball bearings.

force - exerting pressure or influence over an object or substance.

friction - the act of a surface or an object rubbing against another object or surface.

fulcrum – the point on a lever which divides the force and load sides. When a lever moves, it pivots (turns) on the fulcrum, causing one side to go up and the other down.

inclined plane - a plank or plane surface put at an angle to a horizontal surface.

lever - a bar which rests on a fulcrum.

leverage – the increase in force or mechanical advantage that a lever provides. If a lever has a force side ten times as long as its load side, force is increased ten times - but the load side will move only one-tenth the distance.

load - amount of work a machine is expected to perform.

lubrication – a slippery substance, such as oil, applied to a surface. Lubrication reduces friction, so it helps parts move more smoothly. It also keeps them from getting too hot, since friction creates heat.

machine - any device that applies or changes the direction of power, force, or motion.

power - strength or force that can be exerted on other bodies.

pull - to move, usually with force or effort.

pulley – a lifting device which uses a wheel with a groove around it to hold a rope. When two pulleys are used the load is supported by two sections of rope, each holding half the weight of the load.



push - to move something away by pressing against it.

simple machine – the basic element of a complex machine. It does not have the many parts that complex machine have, such as ball bearings, gauges, gears, and valves. The lever, wheel and pulley are all simple machines.

tool - an instrument of work.

wedge - to force an opening.

wheel - a round frame that turns on a pin or shaft (called an axle) in its middle

Caldecott Medal - is an award given to the artist with the most distinguished American picture book for children

chapter book – is a story book intended for intermediate readers, unlike a picture book, a chapter book tell the story primarily through words, rather than pictures

Newbery Medal – is a literary award given to the author for their great writing.