



Berkshiremuseum

Alexander Calder: An Artist at Play

Important Terms and Concepts

Grades 3 - 5

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| <u>Work</u> | a force that makes an object move a distance. |
| <u>Force</u> | a push or a pull. |
| <u>Load</u> | the object that is moved when work is done. |
| <u>Simple machines</u> | six machines that have been used for thousands of years; the wedge, ramp (inclined plane), screw, wheel and axle, pulley, and lever, which when used, make it easier to get work done. The combination of more than one simple machine is called a complex machine. |
| <u>Rotating wheel</u> | a wheel that is not fixed to an axle, so that the wheel can rotate while the axle stays still. |
| <u>Wheel and axle</u> | a wheel that is fixed to an axle so that they rotate together. |
| <u>Lever</u> | a rigid beam that can pivot at a fixed point (the fulcrum). Some examples of levers include sea saws and windshield wipers. Two or more levers can be joined together. Salad tongs are an example of this. The handles on the push toys in the gallery are also levers. |