



Third Grade
Formative Assessment
Simple Machines Charades and Cartoons

Instructional activity: The student will demonstrate knowledge of simple machines with charades and cartoon drawings.

Teacher Directions:

1. The teacher will engage the students in investigations whereby the students will journal and/or complete a thinking map about the six kinds of simple machines.
2. The teacher will provide opportunities for students to learn about various examples of each machine group.
3. The teacher will explain the requirements for the project as follows:
 - Students will be placed in pairs to perform a charade about a compound machine that is made up of at least two simple machines. The pair demonstrates how the machine works and may make sounds, but not talk, so that the audience can guess their compound machine.
 - Each pair creates a cartoon strip about their compound machine. The cartoon should be illustrated and include speech bubbles.

Student Directions:

1. Students will participate in the investigations to learn the six different types of simple machines and examples for each kind.
2. Students will work in pairs, select a compound machine and perform a charade for the class to guess what compound machine they have chosen.
3. Pairs of students will create a cartoon strip about their compound machine for display.

TEKS focus: Content, Skills, Process:

3.5 The student will know that systems exist in the world. These include simple machines: lever, wheel and axle, inclined plane, screw, pulley and wedge.