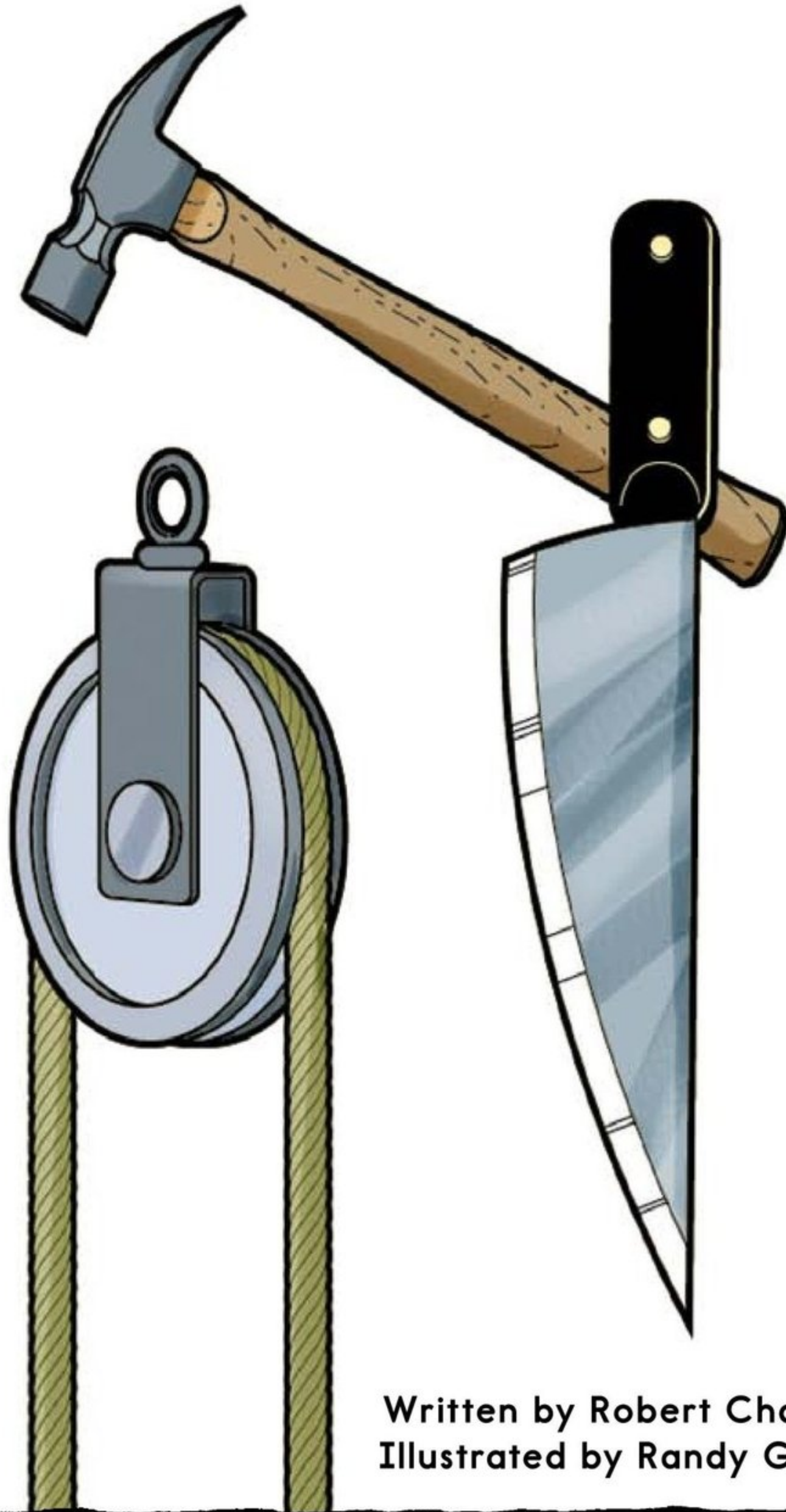


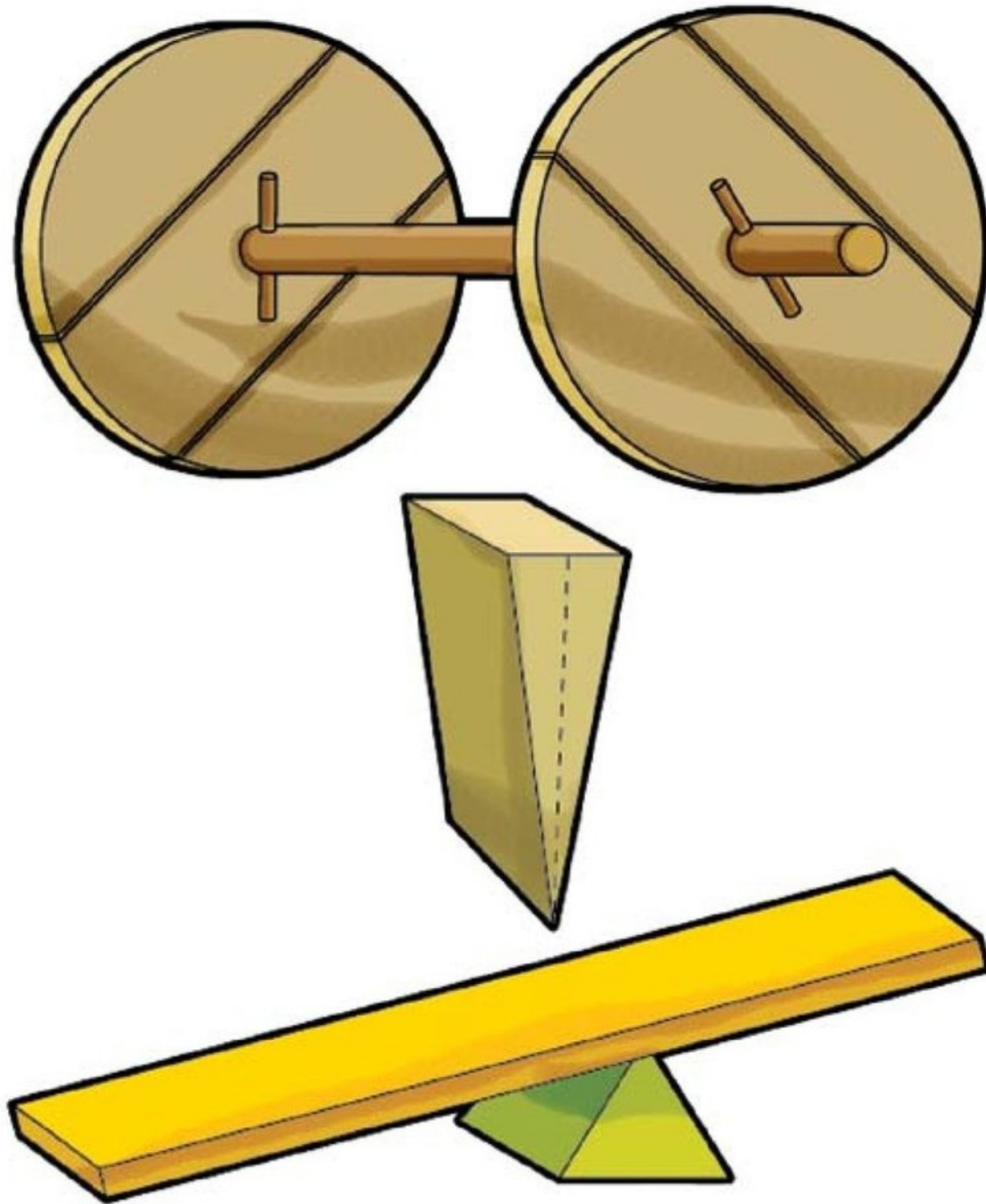
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# Simple Machines



Written by Robert Charles  
Illustrated by Randy Gates

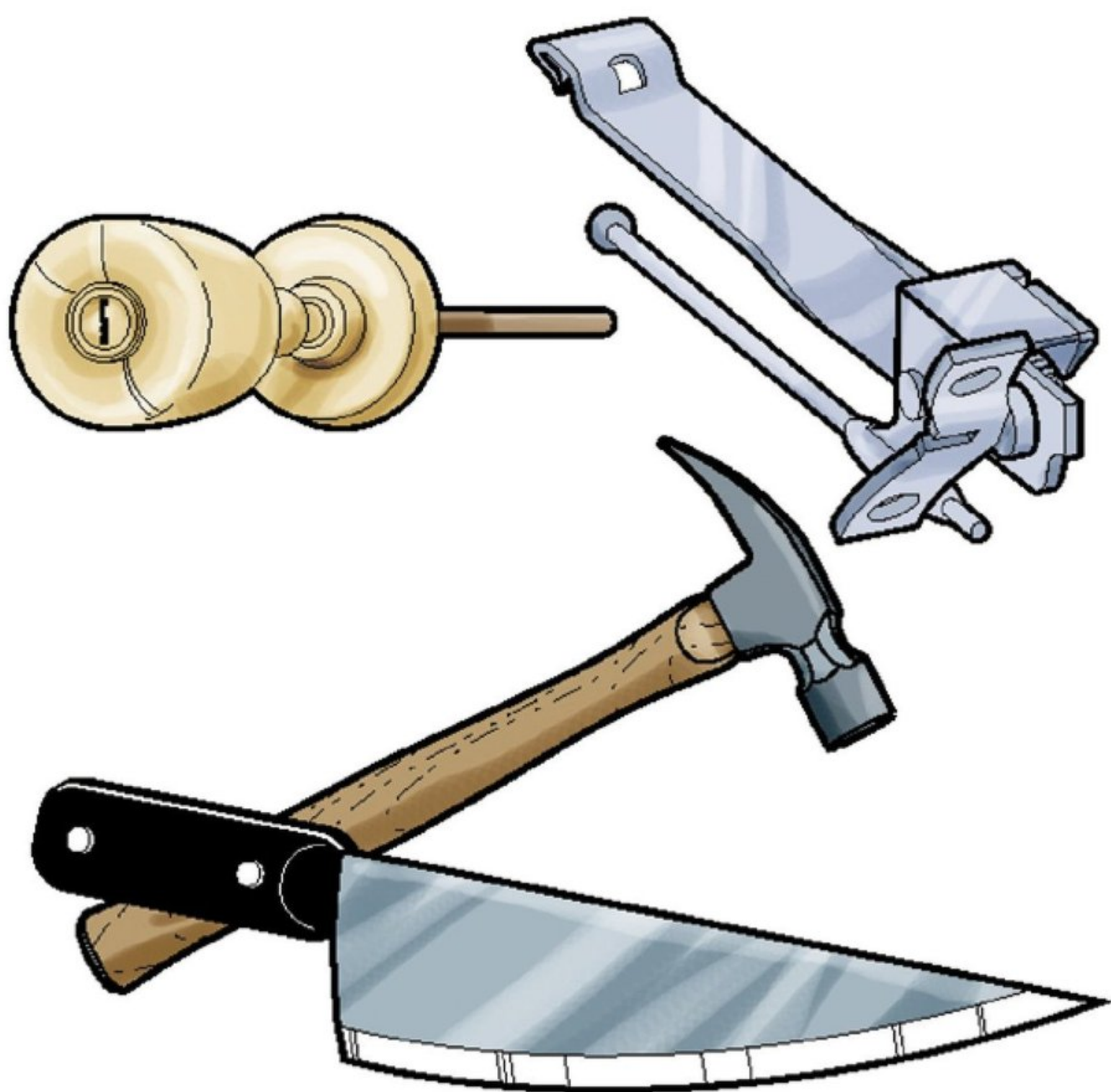
# Simple Machines



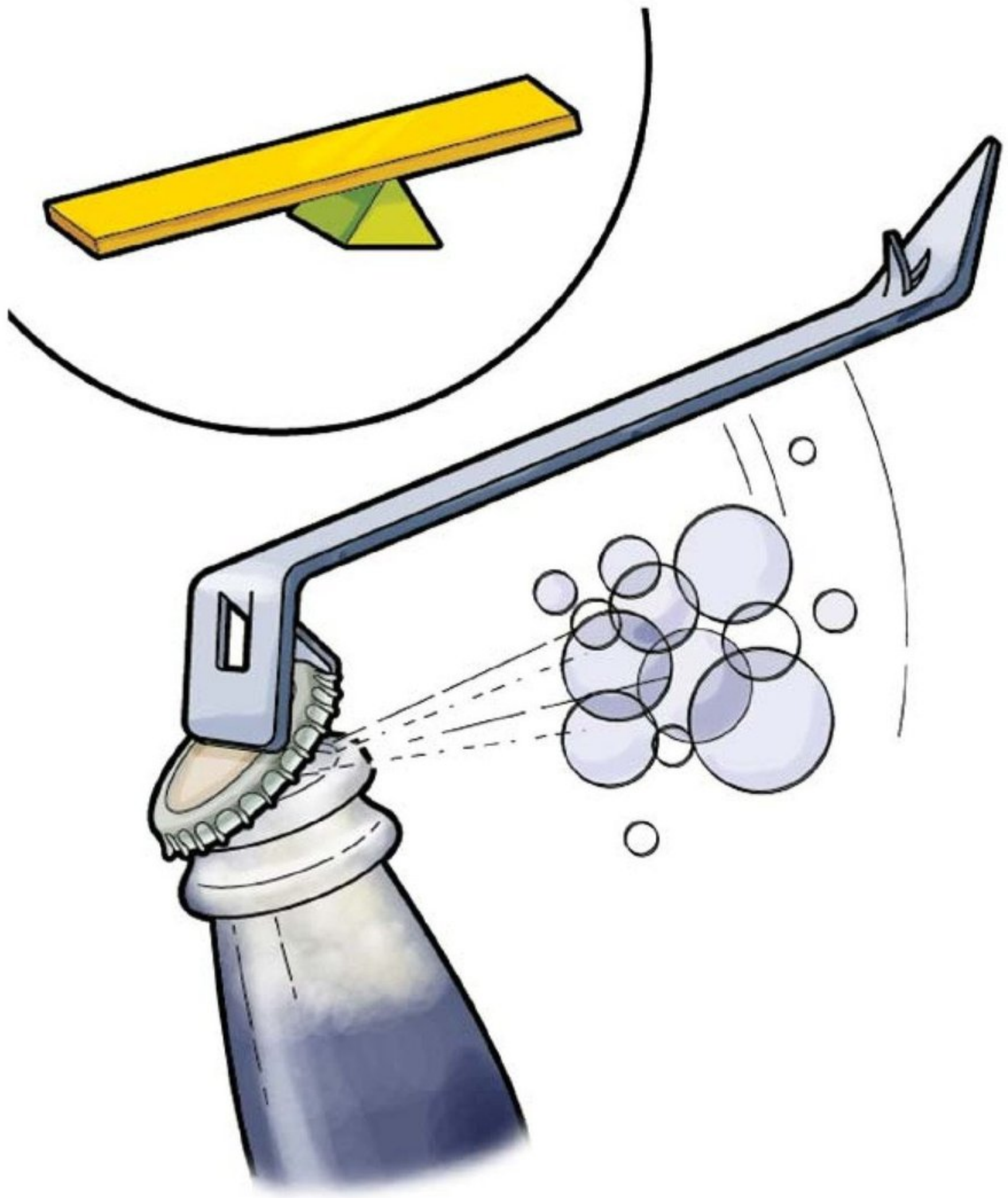
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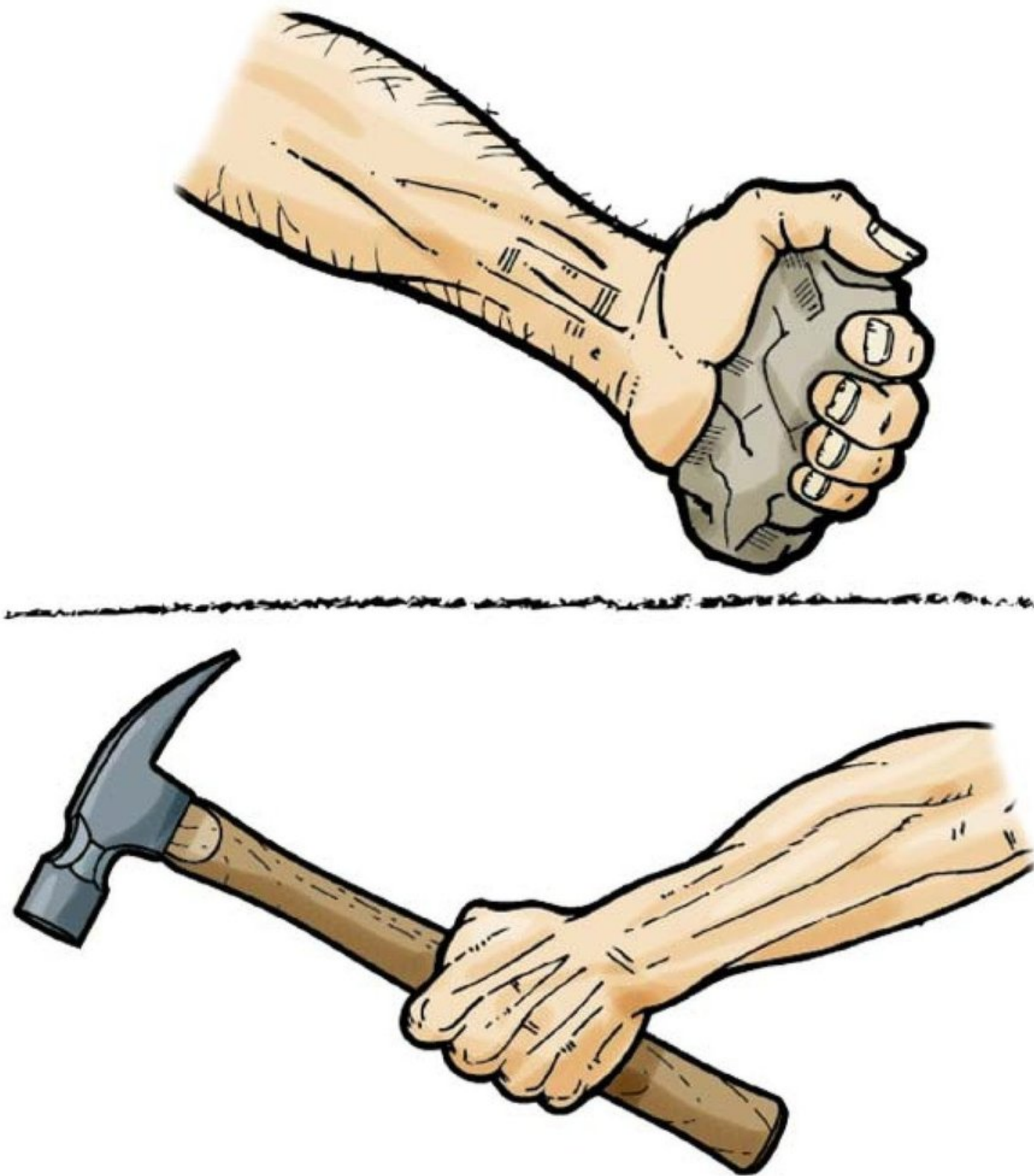
There are many kinds of machines. Most machines make doing work easier. They do this by reducing how much push or pull is needed to do work. Some machines are simple. They have very few parts. They are called simple machines.



A lever is one kind of simple machine. It makes work much easier. A bottle opener is a lever. It makes it easier to open a bottle.



A hammer is a lever too. It makes it easier to pound nails into wood.

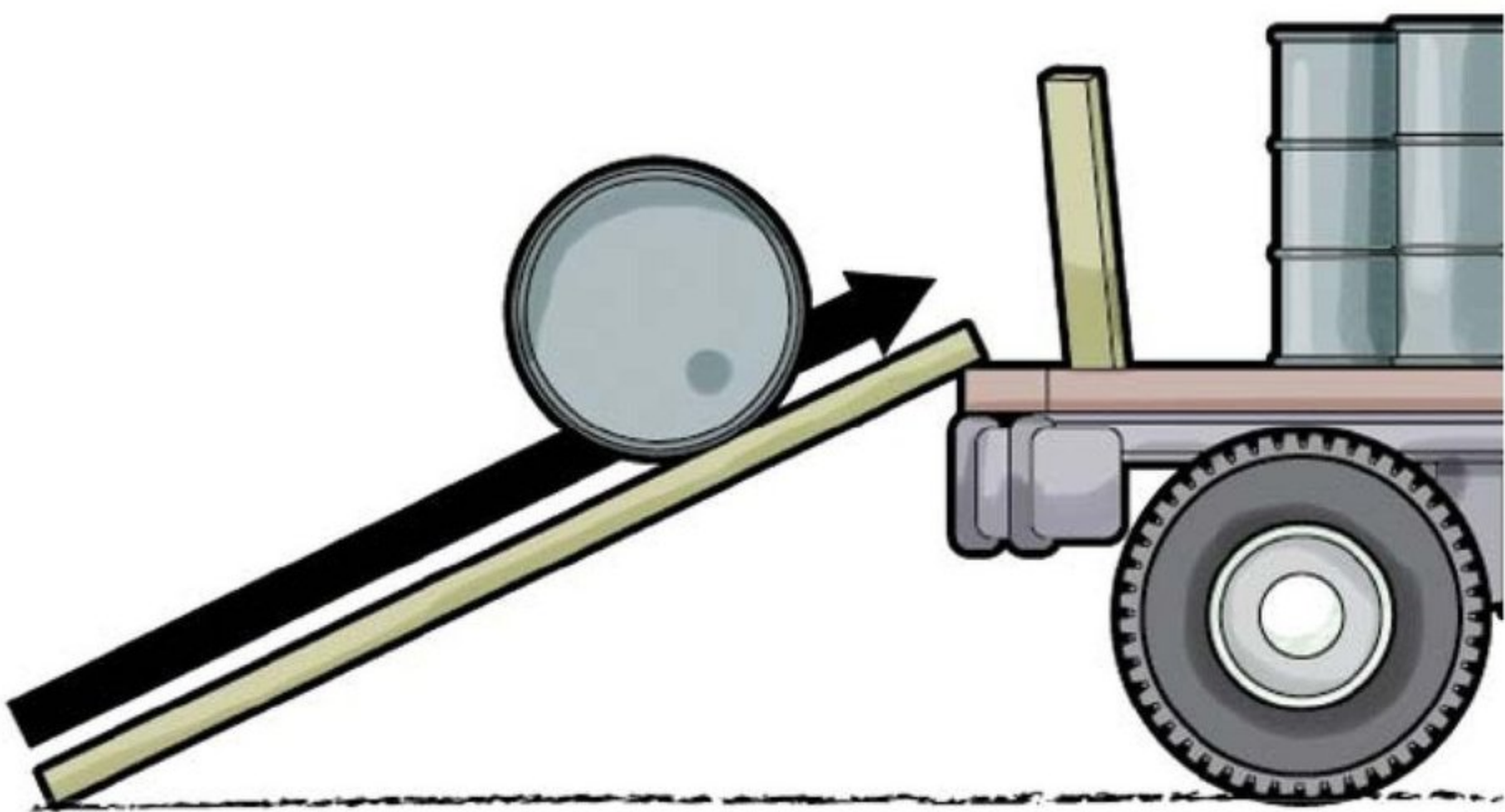
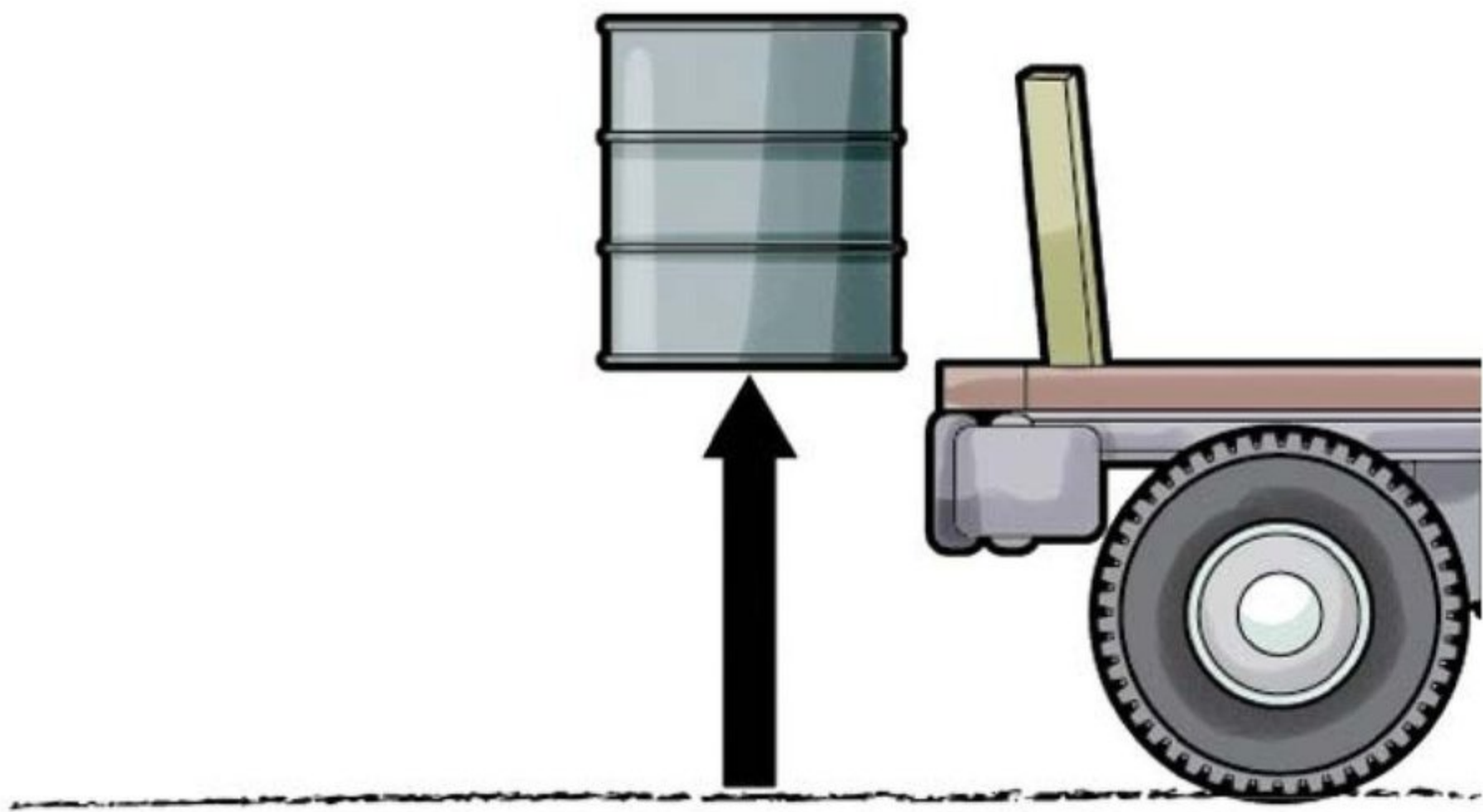




An inclined plane is another kind of simple machine. It makes work much easier. The ramp is an inclined plane. It makes it easier to move things into a truck.



The inclined plane uses less force than lifting things straight up and into the truck. But with the inclined plane, you have to move things a greater distance.



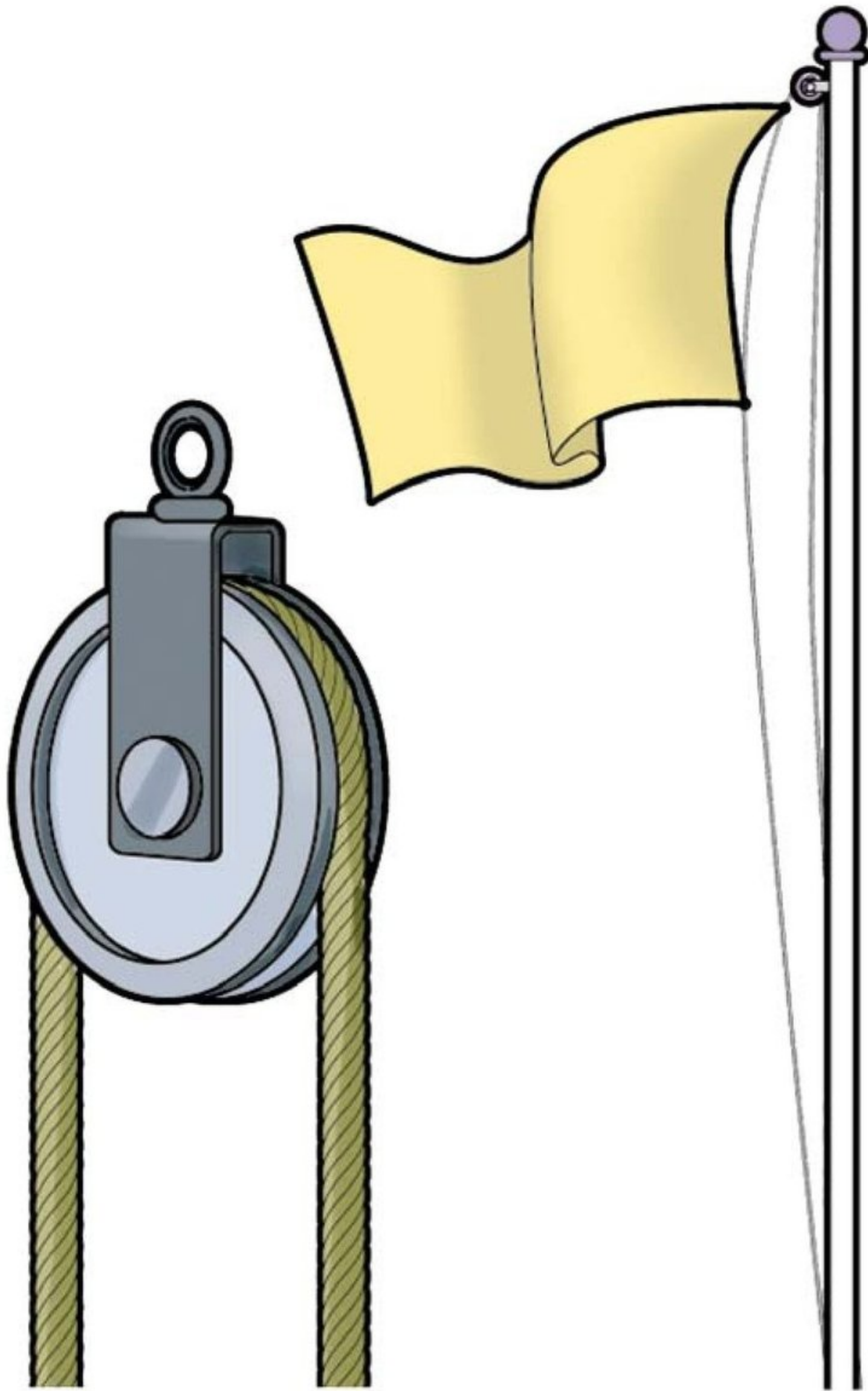


The wedge is a simple machine. It makes work much easier. It is really two back-to-back inclined planes. A knife is an example of a wedge. It makes it easier to cut things.



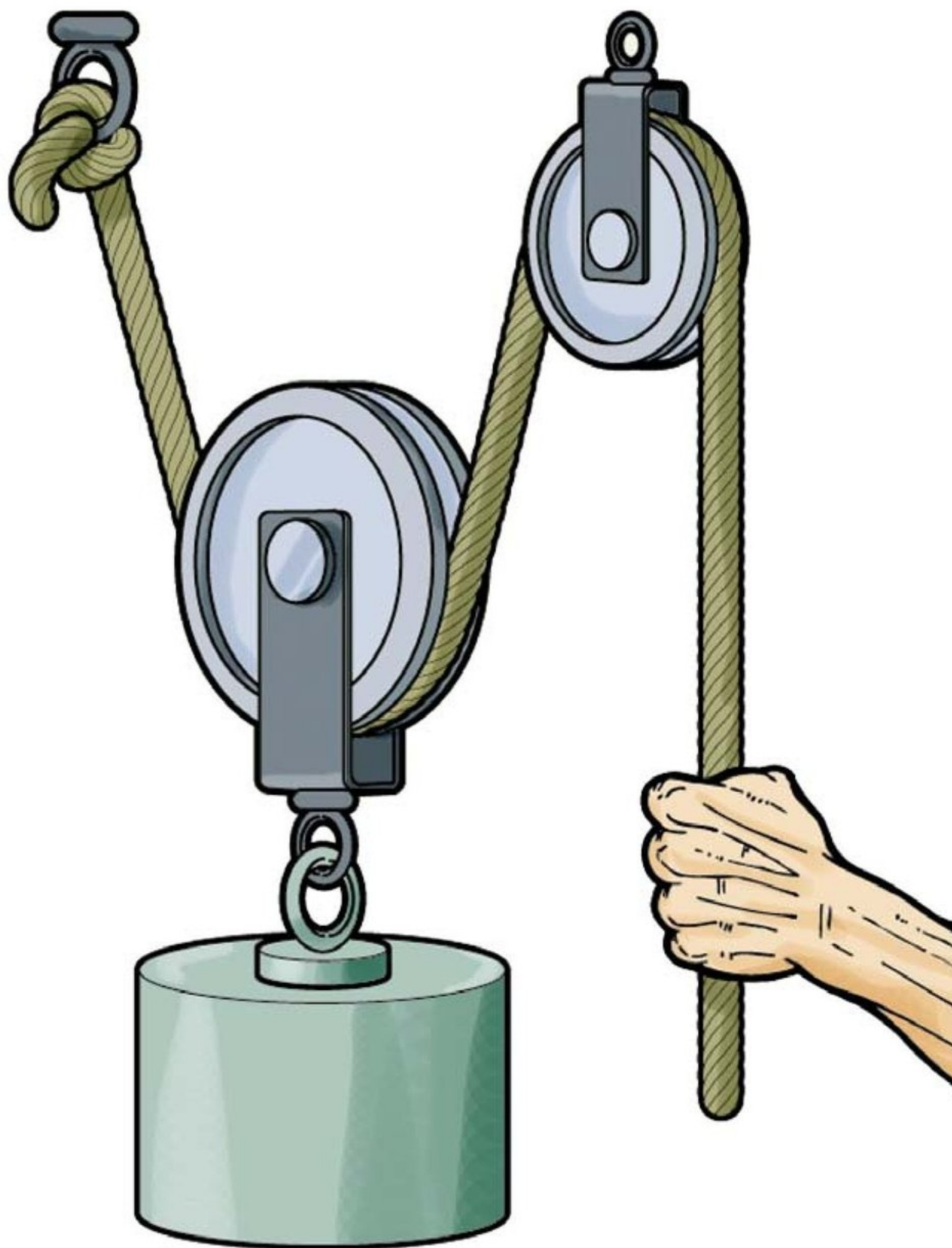
A screw is a simple machine, too. It is an inclined plane wound in a circle. Screws make it easier to hold things together or move things up or down. A jar lid is a kind of screw.





A pulley is a kind of simple machine. It makes work easier. The flagpole has a simple pulley. The pulley makes it easier to raise and lower the flag.

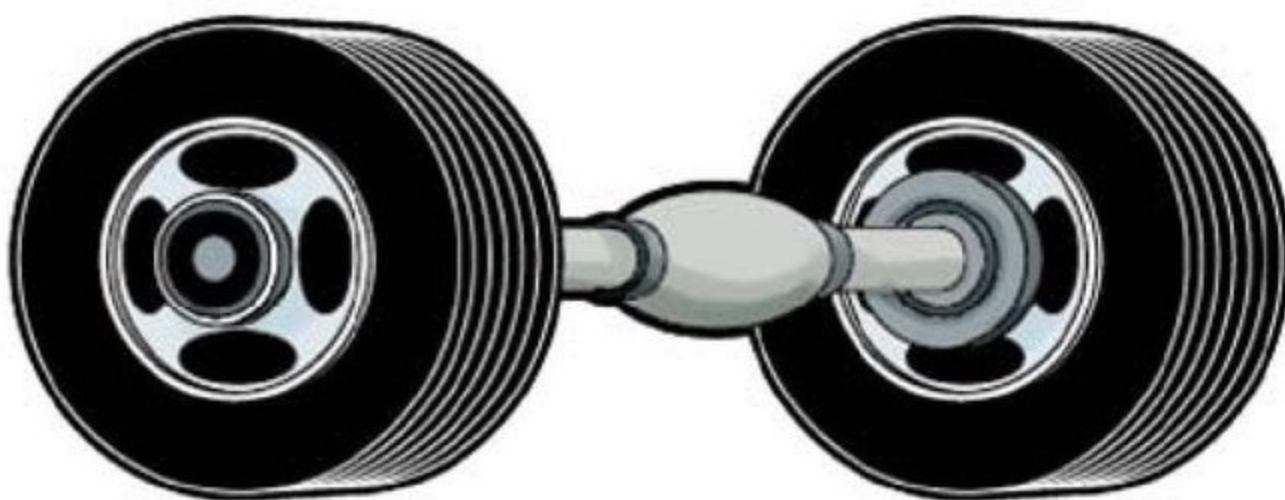
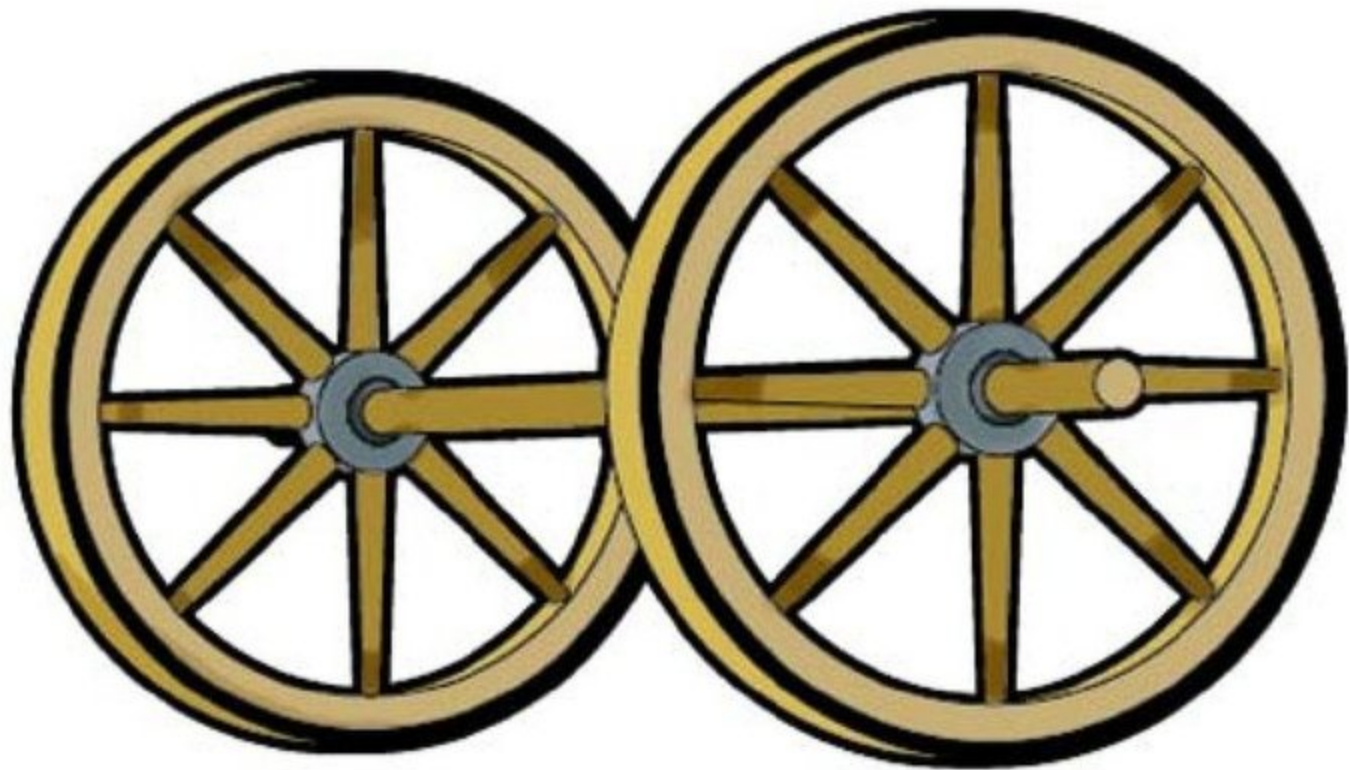
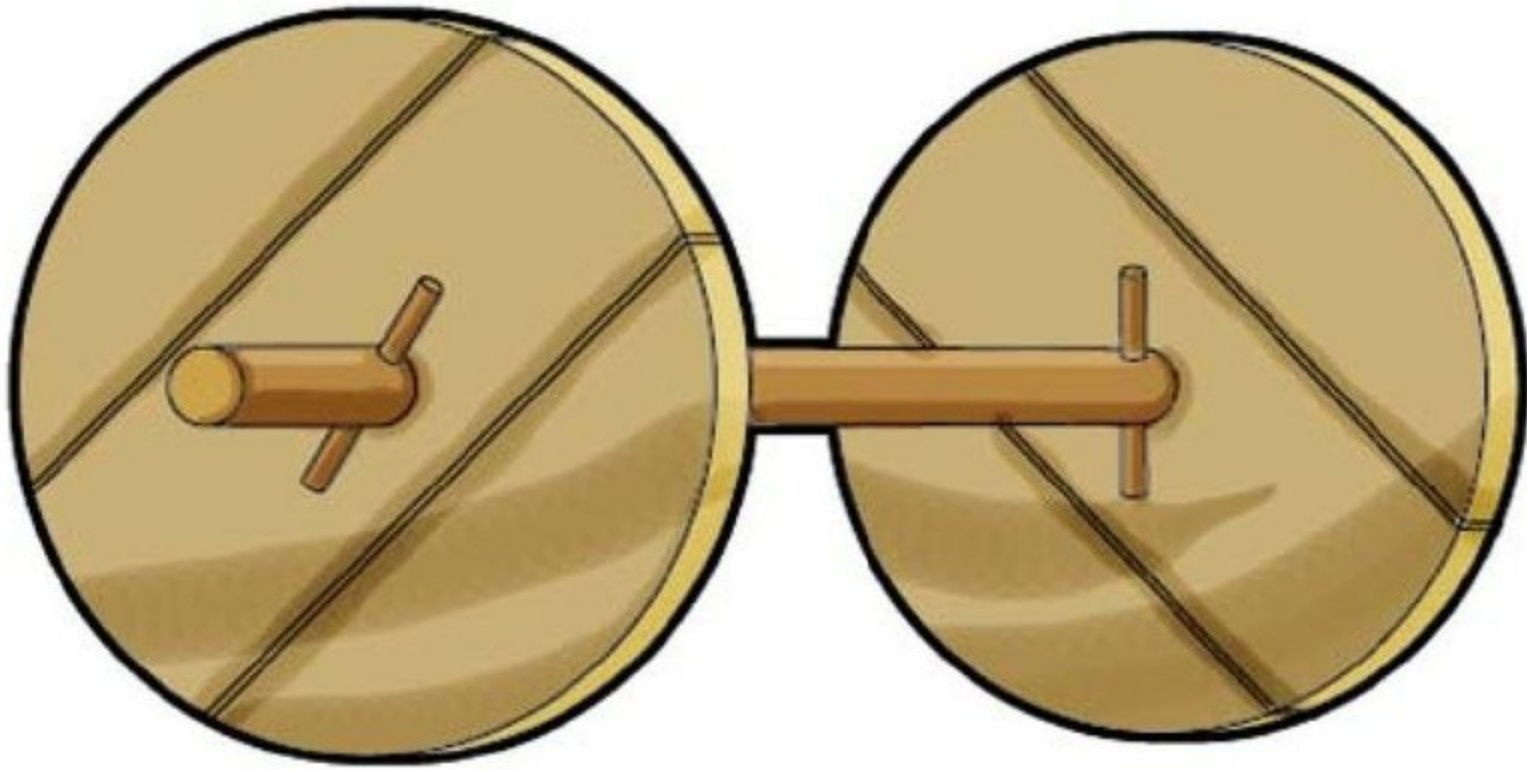




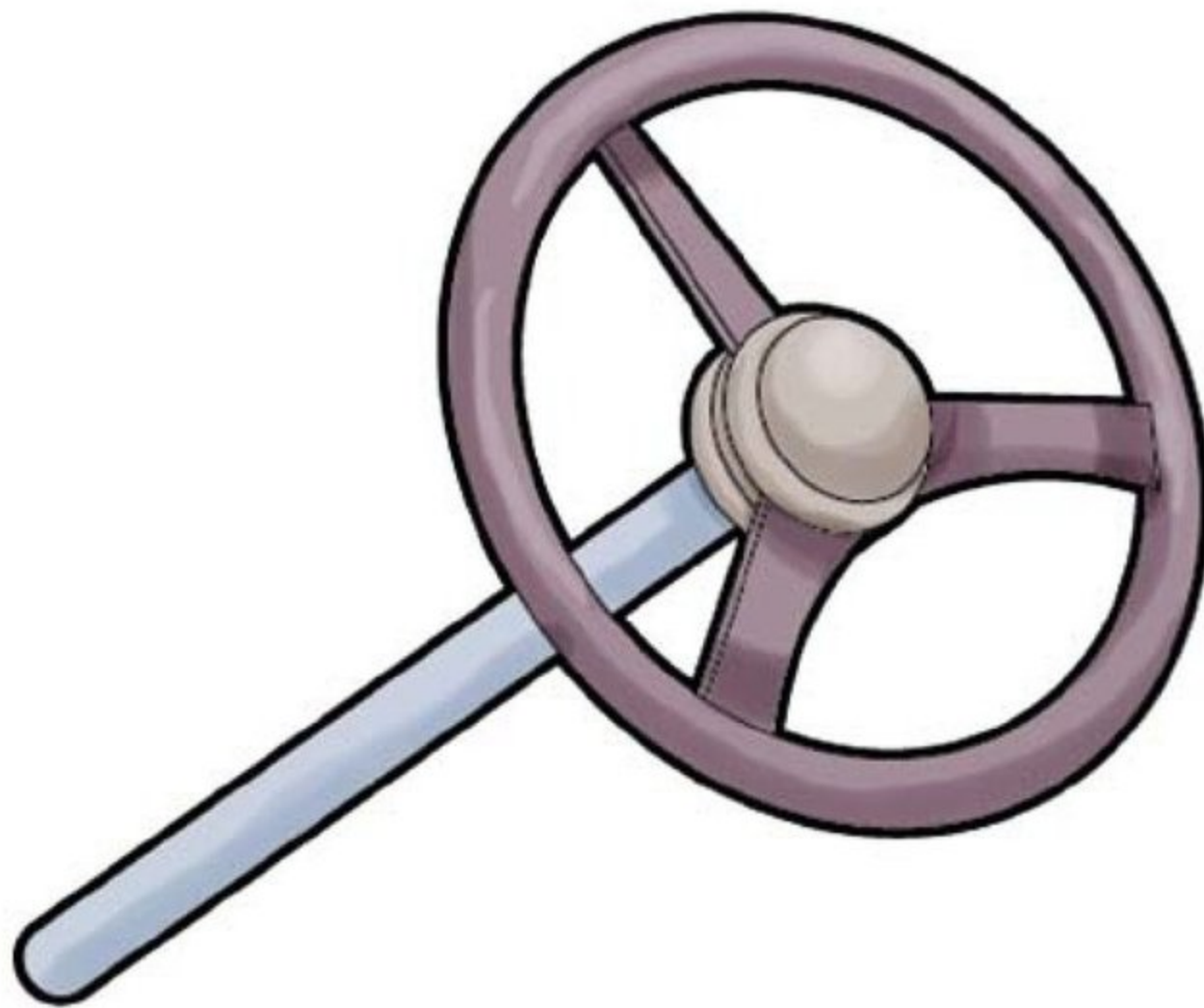
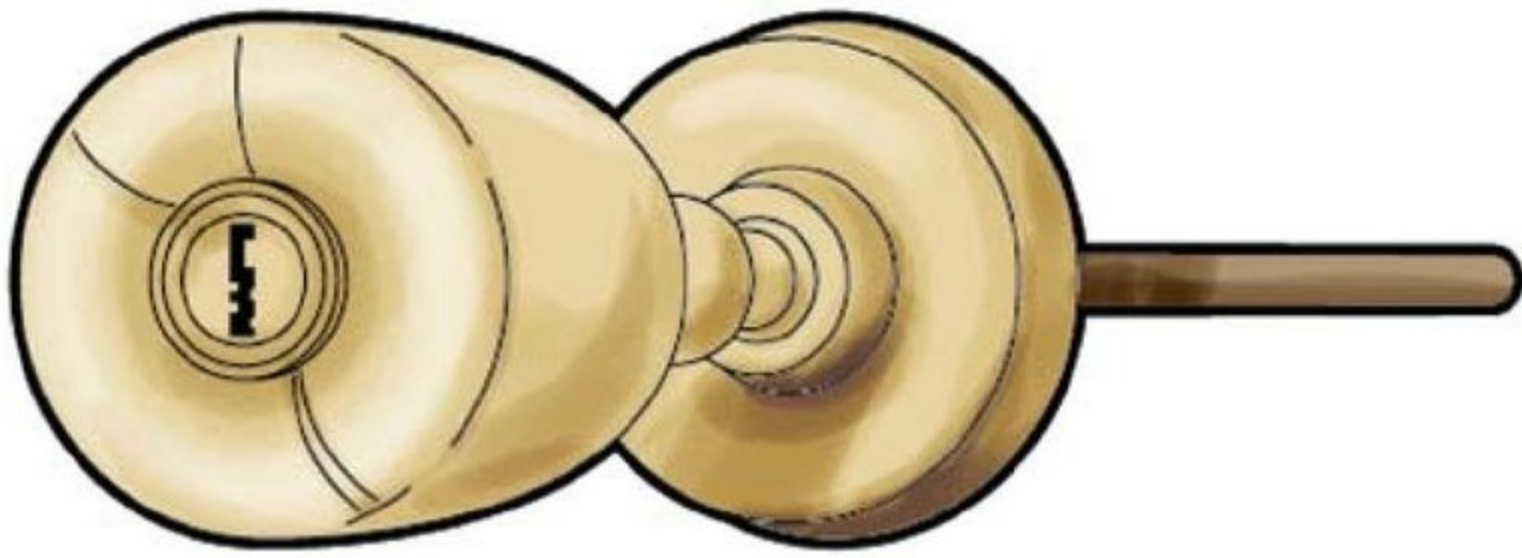
Sometimes two or more pulleys are combined. They reduce the amount of push or pull needed to do work.



A wheel and axle is another kind of simple machine. It makes work much easier.

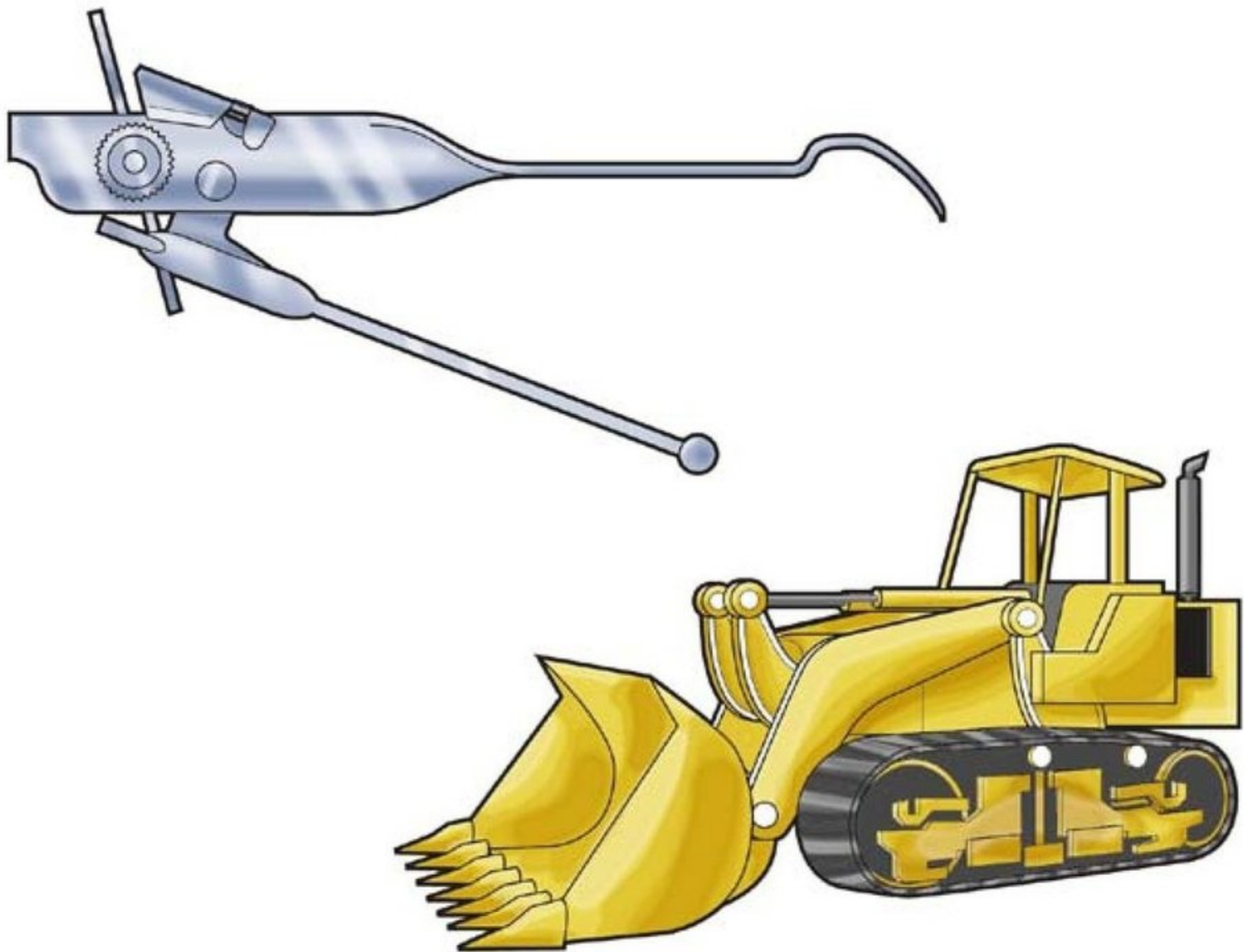






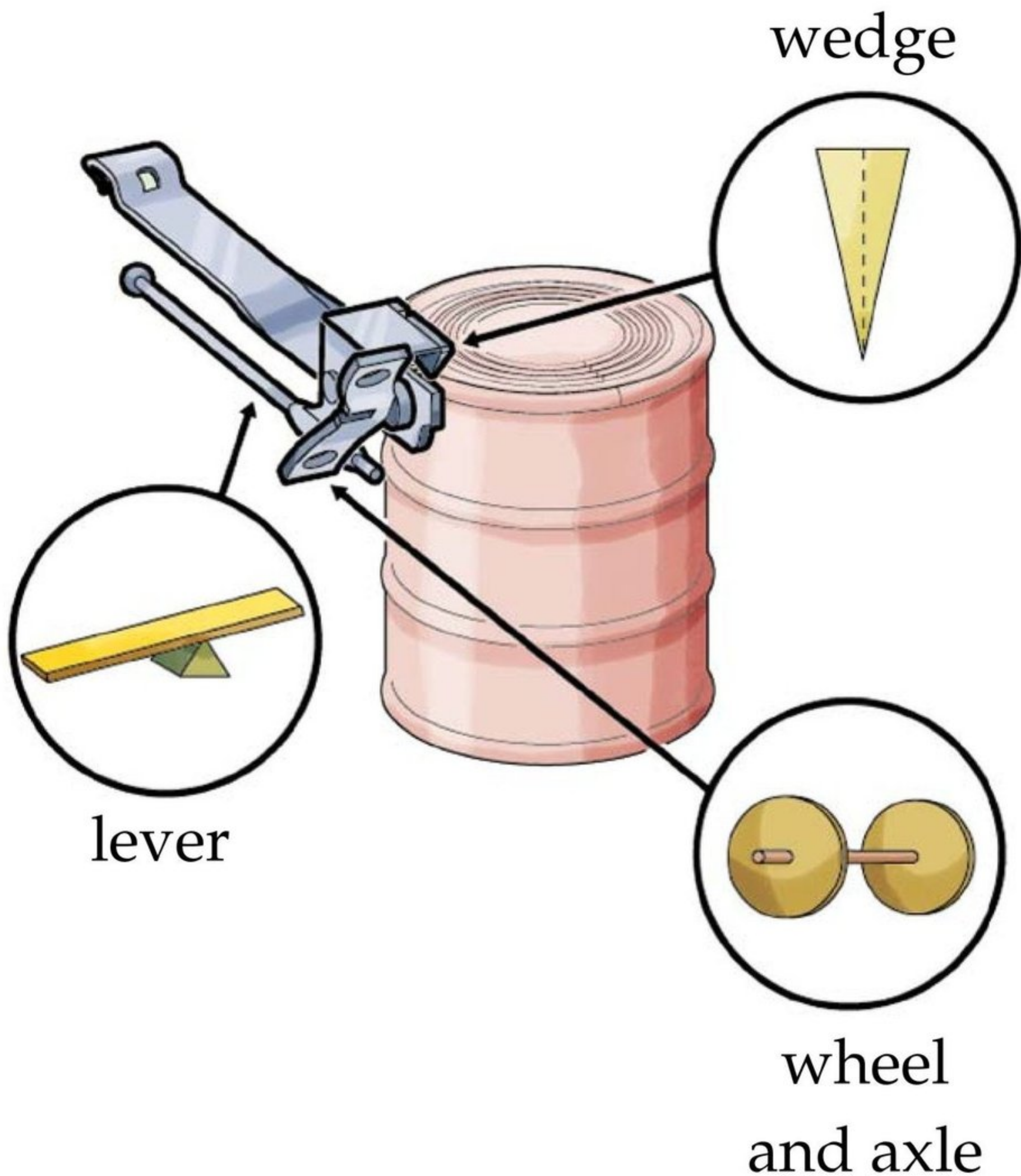
A doorknob and a steering wheel are wheels and axles. The doorknob makes it easier to open a door. The steering wheel makes it easier to turn a car.

In time, people learned how to combine one or more simple machines. These machines are called compound machines. A can opener is a compound machine. A bulldozer is also a compound machine. It has many moving parts.





The can opener has three simple machines. The turning knob on the can opener is a wheel and axle. The hinged handles form a lever, and the cutting part is a wedge.



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