



MEASURING DEVICES

INCLINOMETERS

How do you think carpenters make sure what they are building is level? How do sailors know where they are in the middle of the ocean? How can a park ranger figure out how tall a tree is? The answer is that they use a device called an inclinometer. It measures the angle of a slope.

It is known by many names and it comes in many shapes and sizes. A carpenter calls it a level. A sailor calls it a sextant. Even though it has many names and looks different, it does the same thing.

Inclinometers have been around for a very long time. Egyptian engineers used one to build the pyramids. Lewis and Clark used one to map their journey to the Pacific Ocean. An inclinometer helped Orville and Wilbur Wright fly.

Many different kinds of jobs use an inclinometer. Isn't it odd that very few of us have heard of it?