

Jumping Washeroos

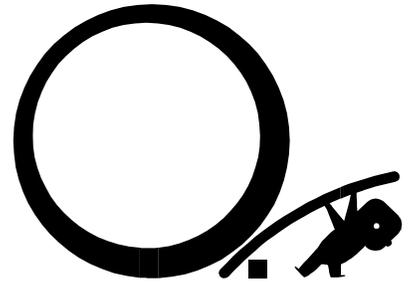
Use a simple machine called a lever to see how high you can make your washer jump!

Materials

- Ruler
- 2 washers
- Pencil

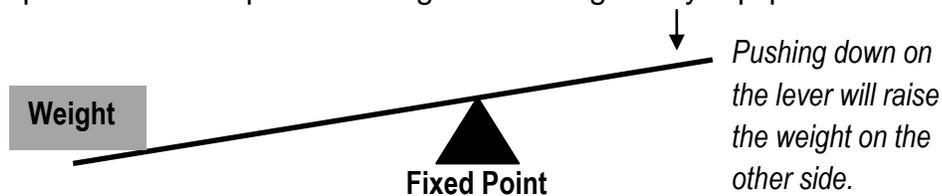
Process

1. Set up your lever by putting the ruler on pencil
2. Set a washer on one end of the ruler
3. Drop the other washer onto the other end of the ruler.
4. How high did your washer jump? Try changing the height from which you drop the washer, what happens? What about if you move your pencil (fixed point)?



So What's Happening?

Levers are a great way to make lifting heavy things easier. They are a *simple machine* made of a stiff bar pivoted on a fixed point and used to pass on force, as in raising or moving a weight at one end by pushing down on the other. On the Shipyard, levers are one of many simple machines used to make machines that are more complicated and help make lifting and moving heavy equipment easier.



Vocabulary

- **Lever** – a simple machine that is used to aid lifting heavy objects.
- **Simple Machine** – the six devices considered to be the basic components from which all machines are made. They are the inclined plane, lever, pulley, screw, wedge, and wheel and axle.

For More Information

EnchantedLearning.com. "Levers." Last modified 2010.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/physics/machines/Levers.shtml>