

GUIDE FOR READING

- ◆ What are the six kinds of simple machines?
- ◆ How can you calculate the mechanical advantage of simple machines?

Reading Tip As you read, make a list of the six kinds of simple machines. Describe each one in your own words.

Look at the objects shown on these pages. Which of them would you call machines? Would it surprise you to find out that each is an example of a simple machine? As you learned in the last section, a machine helps you do work by changing the amount or direction of the force you need to apply.

There are six basic kinds of simple machines: the inclined plane, the wedge, the screw, the lever, the wheel and axle, and the pulley. In this section you will learn how the different types of simple machines help you.



Figure 9 Whether you eat with chopsticks, mix a recipe with an egg beater, screw in a light bulb, or pull in the catch of the day with a fishing pole, you are using a simple machine.