

## 2. *Work/Simple Machines*

### Episode Summary

How can a human lift a car? As Peri demonstrates, there's more than human strength involved when the jack uses leverage to break up a big job into a series of little ones.

### Pre-Viewing Activities

#### Keywords

lever  
simple machine  
work

#### Exploration Activity

Ask students whether or not they think it is possible for one student to lift you off the ground. Then show students a stack of four large books and a piece of lumber that is six inches wide and five feet long. Ask students how they can use those materials to lift you off the ground.

### Post-Viewing Activities

#### Hands-On Science

Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a pencil, masking tape, and ten pennies. Have each group tape the pencil to a level table top and balance a ruler across the pencil. Have students place five pennies on each side of the ruler and observe what happens. Then have students place two pennies on one side of the ruler and eight pennies on the other side of the ruler and observe what happens. Students can also position the pencil closer to one end of the ruler and observe what happens.

#### Curriculum Connections

##### Art

Ask students to look through catalogs, magazines, and newspapers and find pictures of simple machines. Students can then create a collage of simple machines.

**Language Arts**

Have students read *How Do You Lift a Lion?* by Robert E. Wells.