Wedges
Simple Machines

Wedges are used to split or separate objects

**Wedge**: a simple machine that is used to reduce the amount of force needed to split objects

- By forcing an **edge** in between two things, it becomes easier to get them apart
- They work by using the **edge** where two **inclined planes** meet to get into an object
- This **splits** the object into two parts
- The **wedge** is placed in between objects that are to be separated
- The **force** behind the wedge pushes the objects apart

Draw a diagram of a **wedge**: label the **edge**

Name 3 wedges you might see in everyday life:

1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________

- Wedges are used when something needs to be **separated**
- Applying effort on a **wedge** allows you to create force outwards to the sides
- Instead of trying to pull an object apart from the sides, a wedge will allow you to **split** it from the middle
- This makes it much easier to get two things apart!

Types of Pulleys

- **Thin** wedges are used to split objects that are very tightly held together
- **Wide** wedges are useful to hold things that are already separated apart

Draw a diagram of a **thin** and a **wide** wedge: label them
Build your own wedges!

Draw diagrams of all the different types of wedges you and your group can create with the wedge kits:
  ▶ Label all the parts with the correct vocabulary!
  ▶ See how much weight each can split!
  ▶ What functions could they serve?