EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

Grade 4: Module 3A: Unit 1:
Recommended Texts

Unit 1 focuses on simple machines and how those machines help people. The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile text measures on this topic. This provides appropriate independent reading for each student to help build content knowledge.

It is imperative that students read a high volume of texts at their reading level to continue to build the academic vocabulary and fluency demanded by the CCLS.

Common Core Band Level Text Difficulty Ranges:
(As provided in the NYSED Passage Selection Guidelines for Assessing CCSS ELA)

- Grades 2–3: 420–820L
- Grades 4–5: 740–1010L
- Grades 6–8: 925–1185L

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile ranges that correspond to Common Core Bands: below-grade band, within band, and above-grade band. Note, however, that Lexile® measures are just one indicator of text complexity, and teachers must use their professional judgment and consider qualitative factors as well. For more information, see Appendix 1 of the Common Core State Standards.

Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures below-grade band level (below 740L)			
What Is a Plane?	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	230
What Is a Lever?	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	230
What Is a Wedge?	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	280
What Is a Pulley?	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	300
What Is a Screw?	Lloyd G. Douglas (author)	Informational	310
Push and Pull	Patricia J. Murphy (author)	Informational	480
Inclined Planes and Wedges	Sally M. Walker and Roseann Feldmann (authors), Andy King (photographer)	Informational	520

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level;

Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures below-grade band level (below 740L)			
Simple Machines	Deborah Hodge (author), Ray Boudreau (illustrator)	Informational	580
Lance Dragon Defends His Castle with Simple Machines	Eric Braun (author), Anthony Briglia (illustrator)	Informational	475*
Machines We Use	Sally Hewitt	Informational	640
Tires, Spokes, and Sprockets: A Book about Wheels and Axles	Michael Dahl (author) Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	660
Screws to the Rescue	Sharon Thales	Informational	660
Wedges to the Rescue	Sharon Thales	Informational	660
Levers to the Rescue	Sharon Thales	Informational	660
Cut, Chop, and Stop: A Book about Wedges	Michael Dahl (author) Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	670
Simple Machines	Vijaya Khisty Bodach (author)	Informational	680
Inclined Planes to the Rescue	Sharon Thales	Informational	690
Wheels and Axles to the Rescue	Sharon Thales	Informational	690
Ramps and Wedges	David Glover (author)	Informational	700
Pulleys to the Rescue	Sharon Thales	Informational	710
Levers and Pulleys: Lift Anything!	Emily Sohn and Frederick Fellows (authors)	Informational	720
Powerful Machines: Discover Science through Facts and Fun	Gerry Bailey (author)	Informational	730

Title	Author and Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures below-grade band level (below 740L)			
Roll, Slope, and Slide: A Book about Ramps	Michael Dahl (author), Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	No Lexile
Lexile text measures within band level (740-1010L)			
Scoop, Seesaw, and Raise: A Book about Levers	Michael Dahl (author) Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	740
How Do You Lift a Lion?	Robert E. Wells (author/illustrator)	Informational	750
Wedges in Action	Gillian Gosman (author)	Informational	770*
Science Experiments with Simple Machines	Sally Nankivell-Aston and Dorothy Jackson (authors)	Informational	770
Simple Machines	Dana Meachen Rau (author)	Informational	780
Pull, Lift, and Lower: A Book about Pulleys	Michael Dahl (author) Denise Shea (illustrator)	Informational	780
Simple Machines	Ade Deane-Pratt (author)	Informational	820*
How to Catapult a Castle: Machines That Brought Down the Battlement	James de Winter (author)	Informational	820
Explore Simple Machines!	Anita Yasuda (author)	Informational	830
Simple Machines: Discover Science through Facts and Fun	Steve Way and Gerry Bailey (authors)	Informational	840
Forces and Simple Machines	Jon Richards (author)	Informational	875*
How Things Work Encyclopedia	DK Publishing	Informational	960*
Force and Simple Machines	Jon Richards (author)	Informational	No Lexile

Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures above-grade band level (over 1010L)			
Simple Machines Made Simple	Ralph St. Andre (author)	Informational	No Lexile
Sir Isaac Newton: Brilliant Mathematician and Scientist	Natalie M. Rosinsky (author)	Informational	1080
Force and Motion	Peter Lafferty (author)	Informational	1110
The New Way Things Work	David Macaulay (author)	Informational	1180
Machines and Work (Science Fair Projects)	Patricia Whitehouse (author)	Informational	No Lexile