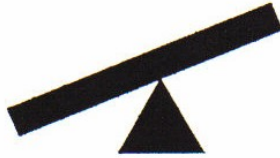


# Seesaw



**Problem:** How does a lever work?

**Materials:** 10 pennies, ruler, pencil

**Procedure:** Part 1 to be done as a whole class

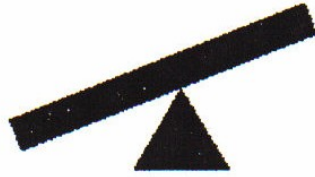
1. Lay the pencil on the tabletop and balance the ruler at the 6" mark.
2. Place the pennies on the ruler ends to balance. Predict and then record how many pennies are placed on each side to balance.
3. Move the pencil to the 3" mark.
4. Place the pennies on the ruler ends to balance. Predict and then record how many pennies are placed on each side to balance.
5. Move the pencil to the 10" mark.
6. Place the pennies on the ruler ends to balance. Predict and then record how many pennies are placed on each side to balance.
7. Move the pencil to any mark you choose.
8. Place the pennies on the ruler ends to balance. Predict and then record how many pennies are placed on each side to balance.

Part 2 is to be done as a center activity

9. Place the ruler at the center table with a variety of materials to use as the fulcrum, such as different size pencils, pens, crayons, markers, etc.
10. Place a number of different materials to balance on the ruler. These could include different size and weights of blocks, small toys that won't roll off the ruler, very light objects such as sponges and heavier objects such as books.
11. Challenge the students to find the right point to balance items of very different weights.
12. Challenge students to find the point that makes it easier to lift a heavy block or book.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Seesaw



## Part 1

Lever Position	Left side Prediction	Left side Actual	Right side Prediction	Right side Actual
6 inches	_____ pennies	_____ pennies	_____ pennies	_____ pennies
3 inches	_____ pennies	_____ pennies	_____ pennies	_____ pennies
10 inches	_____ pennies	_____ pennies	_____ pennies	_____ pennies
__ inches	_____ pennies	_____ pennies	_____ pennies	_____ pennies

Explain what happened when the lever changed positions:

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Explain how the lever is a simple machine:

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