Pulleys at Work

Learn about these simple machines.

Fishing rods use pulleys to reel in the catch.
Get a Lift

A pulley uses a wheel and a rope, cord, or chain. Pulleys help us lift things that are heavy. Here are some examples of pulleys at work.

Setting Sail

Sailboats use pulleys. Pulleys help raise the sails, turn the boat, and more.

Heavy Load

Pulleys help us build. Cranes use pulleys. So do other construction machines.

Safety First

A rock climber wears a harness. It is attached to a person with a pulley. This helps keep the climber from falling if he or she slips.
This is what a pulley looks like up close. Pulleys make it easier to lift heavy things. Can you think of other everyday examples of pulleys?

Top of the Slopes
A ski lift takes people up ski slopes. It is made of many pulleys. One of them is huge! Take a look at it here.

Did You Know?
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New Heights

The world is full of incredible elevators. Many of them use pulleys. Here are a few of TFK’s favorite elevators.

The world’s fastest elevator is in **Shanghai Tower**, in China. It travels almost as fast as a cheetah can. Whoosh!

The **Burj Khalifa** is the world’s tallest building. It is in Dubai. This building’s elevators are the third-fastest in the world.

The **Bailong Elevator** is the tallest outdoor elevator on Earth. It is on the side of a cliff, in China. Would you want to ride in it?

The first **sideways elevator** is being tested in Germany. It can travel up and down, too! Some people say it is the elevator of the future.