

Physical Science Readers: All About Mechanical Engineering

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Mechanical Playground

Think about being at an amusement park. Can you imagine the sounds and smells? Can you picture the rides—roller coasters, trains, spinning cups? An amusement park is a playground of **mechanics** (muh-KAN-iks) and motion.

Mechanics is a field of science that deals with motion and the causes of motion. **Engineering** (en-juh-NEER-ing) is the use of science and math to design, build, and run structures, machines, and **systems**. The basis of mechanics and engineering is found in Sir Isaac Newton's three laws of motion. Newton lived hundreds of years ago. His work has been key to many areas of science for centuries.

↓ Amusement parks could not be built without the laws of mechanical engineering.

