

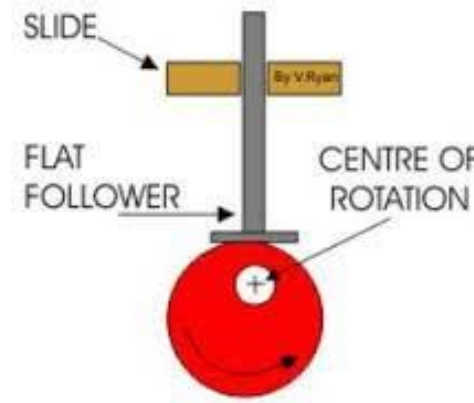
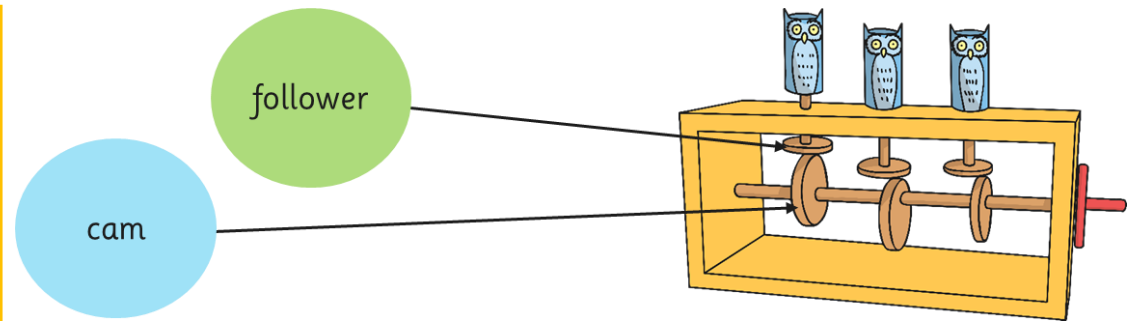
Year 5 Design and Technology Knowledge Organiser—Cams and Followers

A cam mechanism is made up of two main components - a *cam* and a *follower*.

Cam - a rotating disk shaped to convert rotary into linear motion.

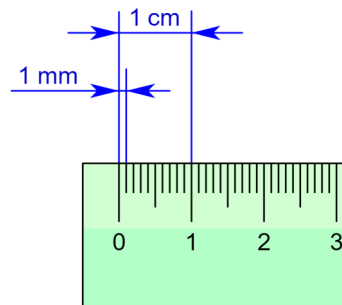
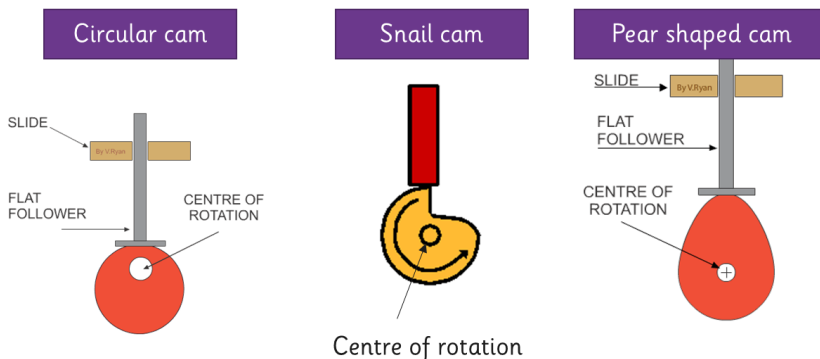
Follower - the component which follows the movement of the cam.

The mechanism causes components to move either in a *linear* motion (a straight line) or a *rotary* motion (goes round).



A cam rotates in a circular motion when spun by a dowel attached to a handle. The follower follows this movement and goes up and down in a straight motion.

Types of cams



In design and technology, when measuring for our cams, the best unit of measurement to use is millimetres. This is because it is accurate and a small unit of measurement we can see with the eye.