

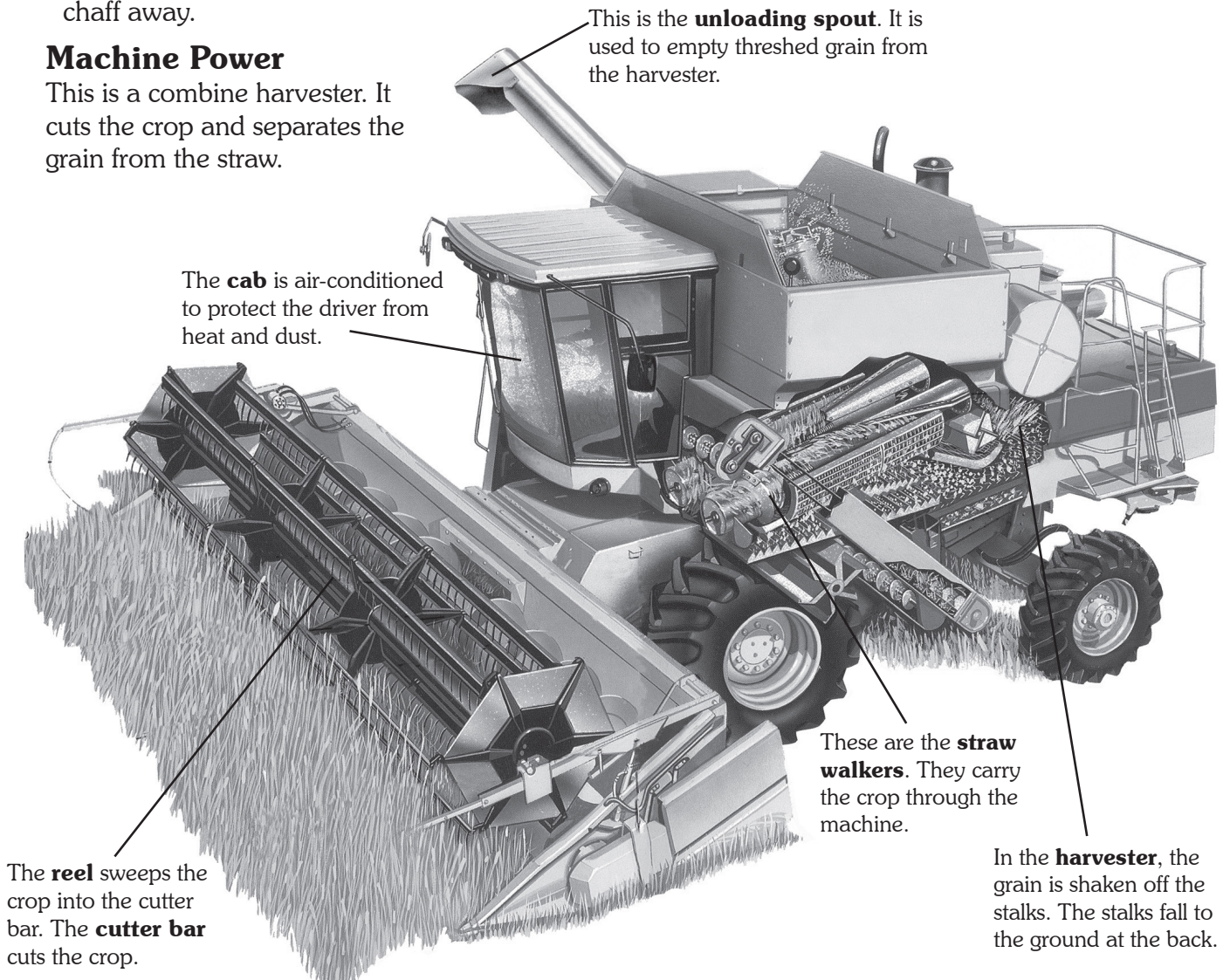
# How To Do It!

## Threshing or Removing the Seed from the Plant

1. Working over a table or desktop, place the seed head between both hands with the palms flat and pressed together. Move your hands backward and forward repeatedly while applying pressure. This is similar to the threshing action in a combine.
2. Pull your hands apart and the threshed wheat will fall to the table. The stalk is easy to separate. Does it look like straw? Straw is made from the stalks of harvested, mature grains (you may only have a small piece of the stalk with your seed head).
3. Gather the remaining seeds and debris in the cup of your hands. Shake your hands and notice how the bigger, lighter parts of the seed head float to the top and the heavier seeds settle to the bottom. Now skim what you can off of the top and discard (careful not to discard the seeds!). This is similar to the separating action of the combine by the straw walkers and sieves.
4. Next, clean the remaining debris (chaff) from the seeds (grain) in your hand. A combine completes this job by blowing air through the grain and chaff, removing the lighter chaff and blowing it out of the rear of the combine. Standing near a garbage, pour the grain from one hand to the other while blowing lightly on the material as it drops through the air from one hand to the other.
5. The seed head's trip through the combine only takes about 15 seconds, and there are thousands of heads going through the combine at the same time. Historically, farmers would have had livestock walk on the wheat heads on a hard surface to thresh the grain out of the heads. Then they would separate the stalks by hand and throw the grain and chaff up into the air for the wind to blow the chaff away.

### Machine Power

This is a combine harvester. It cuts the crop and separates the grain from the straw.



This is the **unloading spout**. It is used to empty threshed grain from the harvester.

The **cab** is air-conditioned to protect the driver from heat and dust.

These are the **straw walkers**. They carry the crop through the machine.

In the **harvester**, the grain is shaken off the stalks. The stalks fall to the ground at the back.

The **reel** sweeps the crop into the cutter bar. The **cutter bar** cuts the crop.