

# Apples

Apples are they the most widely grown and cultivated tree fruit in the United States. In fact, apples are grown in all 50 states! Teaching all about apples is a great way to start the school year since apples are a fruit all of your students have had exposure to at some time.

## Interesting Apple Facts

- Apples are a member of the rose family
- The first apple trees in America were planted by the Pilgrims in Massachusetts Bay Colony, who brought them from Europe
- The United States is the second leading producer of apples, behind China
- All apples have 5 seed pockets but different varieties have different number of seeds.
- It takes 4-5 years for a tree to produce its first apple.
- Americans eat almost 20 pounds of apples per person a year
- 25% of an apple is air, that's why they float.
- 2,500 varieties of apples are grown in the U.S.
- 7,500 varieties of apples are grown in worldwide.

Facts from <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/apples/facts>,

## Essential Vocabulary

**apple** – a firm round fruit with a central core

**orchard** – a grove or field where apple trees are grown.

**peel** – the outer covering of a fruit. Apple peels are normally colored various shades of yellow, red and green.

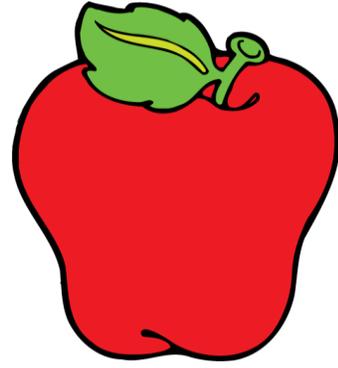
**seed** – a flowering plant's unit of reproduction. The number of seeds an apple has depends on its variety and the health of the tree.

**stem** – the stalk attaching the fruit to the branch.

## Lesson Starters

### Classroom Family Tree

Print and color the [apple tree pattern](#). On the large apples, write the core values of your classroom such as honesty, respect, caring, and truthfulness. Next, have students press their thumbs on a red inkpad, then on the tree to create apple thumbprints. Write each student's name on their apple. Display your classroom family tree for all to see and as a reminder of the values your classroom stands for.



### Thinking Activity

Pose the question, "What can you do with an apple?" and brainstorm possible ideas which might be typical or more *outside the box*. Pass out the [printed pages](#) and have students write their ideas along with an illustration. Create a class book or let students have several pages in order to create their own personal books.

## Resource Connection

### Teaching Resources

[Apples: Everything You Need](#)

### Printables

- [Apple Sprouts and Apple Snack Science](#)
- [Apple Observations](#)
- [Apple Print Banner](#)
- [Apple Stories Stationary](#)

### Non-fiction Article

[Cloudy With a Chance of Apples](#)

### Crafts

- [Simmering Apple Craft Project](#)
- [Apple Core Craft](#)
- [Printed Apple Wreath](#)
- [Apple Sponge Printings](#)

### Blog Posts

[Apple Activities for Your Classroom](#)

### Cook With Apples

- [No Bake Apple Cookies](#)
- [Applesauce](#)

### Web Link

The U.S. Apple Association has several [educational materials](#) you can use in your classroom.

### Book List

[Grades PreK-2](#)

### Apple Word Wall

Word Wall on Scholastic Month by Month ([link](#))