



Apples

How do apples grow?

Apples grow on hardy trees. They grow best where it is cold in winter, moderate in summer and not too dry. There are apples for all uses, some for eating fresh, some for cooking and some for preserving. Some apples are sweet and some are tart. Some apples are ready to pick in the summer and other in the fall. Apple trees can grow from 3 to 9 metres (10 to 30 feet) tall and nearly as wide. Apple trees can live for 100 years or more. Apple trees bloom in the spring and take from 100 to 200 days before the fruit is ready to be picked depending on the type of apple. Apple trees take four to five years to produce their first fruit. Check out this 3.18 minute video on Facts About Apple Trees from Science with Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2utWW5Fb4c>



Did you know?

- The science of apple growing is called pomology.
- There are 15 different main varieties of apples grown on nearly 15,580 acres in Ontario. The province's major apple-producing areas are along the shores of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.
- The top five varieties of apples in Ontario (based on acreage planted) are Gala, McIntosh, Honeycrisp, Ambrosia, and Red Delicious.
- Empire apples grow right here in Ontario.
- Did you know an Empire apple is actually a cross between two apples? One of them is a Red Delicious apple. Can you guess the other one?
 - a. Granny Smith
 - b. McIntosh
 - c. Crispin

Where did apples come from?

Apples have existed as a wild fruit since prehistoric times and have been farmed for more than 3,000 years by the ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians.

The apple tree now grows in thousands of varieties in almost every corner of the world – from Japan to Madagascar to South Africa, New Zealand, Russia, China, England, France and across much of North America.

The apples we know today come from the wild apples found in Central Asia. Apples were first grown in Nova Scotia, Canada over 410 years ago. The biggest challenge with growing apples in Canada was climate, which continues to cause problems for farmers today. Apples didn't make their way into Ontario until around the 1790's.

Fun fact: The crab apple is the only apple native to North America.

Reflective Activity

Check out the label! Buy a bag of apples. Look at the packaging to see where the apples came from. Use the internet to search that location and determine how far the farm is from your school. Did your apples come from a local farm? Do you think they came on a truck, a plane or a ship?



Joke Corner

- Q. When is an apple grouchy?
A. When it's a crab apple.
- Q. What kind of apple isn't an apple?
A. A pineapple.
- Q. What do you call two apples next to each other?
A. A pear.