

Apples in Alaska

By Renate Foster

Materials

• See list on Page 2

Objectives

Students will learn to

1. identify and compare types of apples, where seeds come from and some foods made from apples.
2. estimate, graph and compare data.
3. explain how apples are grown and basic steps in seed planting.

Suggested grade levels

1st (adaptable for others)

Estimated time

45 minutes per lesson

Alaska Content Standards

to be determined



This project presented by Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom through funding from the Alaska Farm Bureau, with grant assistance from the



Alaska Division of Agriculture, the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium and USDA. For information, visit www.agclassroom.org/ak

Overview

Students will explore the topic of a seasonal food, answer specific questions about the plant life cycle, learn that there are various types of this fruit and have an opportunity to taste different foods made of apples.

Introduction/Background

Apples are being grown in Alaska but are considered small and mostly pie apples, not large enough for commercial sales. Some Mat-Su Valley farmers do sell U-pick apples in the fall. The reason why there are no large-scale orchards in Alaska is that the growing season is too short to grow many varieties of apples. Summerred, Yellow Transparent, Rescue and Chinese Golden Early apples can be raised to moderate size in Southcentral Alaska, but the most success is found growing crabapples, which are often used to make jelly, sauce, juice and pies. The two recommended varieties of crab apples are Quality and Jacques. Some varieties are marginally successful in the Interior. (For more information see the UAF Cooperative Extension Service publications “Recommended Variety List for Southcentral Alaska” and “Vegetable and Fruit Varieties for Interior Alaska” available as a download; see URLs)

Activity

1. Read Johnny Appleseed or another literature book about apples.

Discuss details.

Make a timeline on 3x5 cards showing the events of the story. Line up on chalk rail of board and discuss. Pass our storybook paper and copy the words from the 3x5 onto the paper and illustrate. Make into class book.

2. Cut an apple in half around the middle to show the star in the center.

Make apple prints using red paint on white 4x24 paper strips. While drying, write apple chants. Teacher brainstorms describing words with class:

<u>Colors</u>	<u>Look</u>	<u>Places</u>
red	shiny	a store
yellow	bright	a basket
green	smooth	an orchard

These will be the same in all poems.

Teacher puts underlined portion of poem on board:

example:

I see apples all around,	(I see -line)
on the tree and on the ground,	(place line)
Red and yellow,	(color line)
Shiny and bright,	(description line)
I could eat apples,	
all through the night.	

Put poems under their apple print strips for display.

Materials

1. Three different types of apples
2. yellow sticky notes
3. plastic or paper cups for seed cups with drainage holes punched in bottoms.
4. potting soil
5. waterproof tray
6. window sill or bright light for plants
7. spray bottles with water
8. various literature books about apples such as Johnny Appleseed by Steven Kellogg
9. storybook paper(space at the top-lines on the bottom half) and writing paper.
10. blank 3x5 cards
11. red tempera paint



Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom is a project of the Alaska Farm Bureau. For more information, visit www.agclassroom.org/ak

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3. List common varieties of apples such as Gala, McIntosh, Red Delicious.

Show one of each variety. Have children predict which is their favorite on yellow sticky notes and graph on the board. Cut and slice apples (save the seeds for a later activity) for children to taste one slice of each kind and then put their favorite on another sticky note. Have them compare their prediction with their favorite. Discuss the graph.

4. Discuss or read a book about how apples are grown from seed to tree. Do a life cycle project by tracing circles (paper plate size) onto white paper and folding into fourths. In one-fourth glue an apple seed, the next draw the tree, then draw the spring blossom, last draw the ripe apple.

5. Distribute small cups filled with potting soil that contain a drainage hole in the bottom. Plant 2 salvaged seeds from previous activity. Students place in waterproof tray and then mist with spray bottle. Place in window or under light. Students then study and observe the seeds grow over the next few weeks. They may even want to start a plant journal.

6. Culminating activity — APPLEFEST

Teacher sends home a note with students asking for apples and foods that are made from apples such as pies, apple butter, applesauce, apple slaw. Have an applefest tasting all those delicious foods made from apples. Use sticky notes to graph your favorite food. Discuss.

Discussion points for various grade levels

1. Why don't all varieties of apples do well in Alaska?
2. What are the major growing areas for apples in the United States and in other areas of the world?
3. How far do apples travel to Alaska stores?

Other Activities

http://www.abcteach.com/directory/theme_units/apples/

Websites

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/anrpubs.html#hga>

<http://www.bestapples.com/varieties/>

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/apples/>

<http://swedenborg.org/jappleseed/history.html>