

# Arizona Grown Specialty Crop Lesson Plan

## Apples Galore Literacy Circles

**LEVEL:** Grades 3-5

**SUBJECTS:** Reading, Writing, Science

**AZ ACADEMIC STANDARDS:** 3.RL.2, 3.RL.3, 3.RF.3, 3.RF.4, 3.RI.2, 3.RI.3, 3.W.2, 3.W.5, 3.W.9, 3.W.10, 3.SL.1, 3.SL.4, 4.RL.2, 4.RL.3, 4.RF.3, 4.RF.4, 4.RI.2, 4.RI.3, 4.W.2, 4.W.5, 4.W.9, 4.W.10, 4.SL.1, 4.SL.4, 5.RL.2, 5.RL.3, 5.RF.3, 5.RF.4, 5.RI.2, 5.RI.3, 5.W.2, 5.W.5, 5.W.9, 5.W.10, 5.SL.1, 5.SL.4

### MATERIALS

- How do Apples Grow book by Betsy Maestro
- Apple AgMag
- Apples book by Gail Gibbons
- The Apple Orchard Riddle book by Margaret McNamara
- writing paper
- pencil
- apple data sheet

### VOCABULARY

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### GETTING STARTED

1. Pre-teach how to create an outline to organize information as well as how to write a research paper.

### PROCEDURES

1. Break students into 4 groups. Assign each group a different reading material from the list above.
2. Students will read the story aloud as a group. Taking turns on the different pages. As the students read, they will record information on the apple data sheet. (not all information will be found in each of the reading sources)
3. Regroup students with one peer from each of the other groups. Students become the expert on their original reading resource and will share with the others what they have learned with the other students in their group. Students will fill in any

missing data on their apple data sheet..

4. Students will generate an outline to organize the information they have gathered. Once the outline has been generated, students will begin their 5 paragraph short report.
5. Upon completion of their rough draft, students will self-edit and peer edit prior to writing their final draft.

### EVALUATION

- Grade students' final draft using the 6 traits of writing.

### EXTENSION/VARIATION

- Allow students to complete a taste test of different apples. What does the class like (red, yellow, green, etc)
- Have students create venn diagrams or bubble charts to compare the 3 stories.

### RESOURCES

- [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org) (apple ag mag)
- Arizona Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Lending Library (for books)

### EDUCATORS' NOTES

#### CURRICULUM DESIGN

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### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Students will discover the wonderful world of apples through informational texts and write a report on apples.

### OBJECTIVES

-students will gather information from text and write a report on apples

### ESTIMATED TEACHING TIME

3 60-minute sessions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Apples Galore Student Worksheet**

1. What color are apple blossoms?
2. What are the parts of an apple blossom and what is their job in apple production?
3. How many apple seed pockets are inside an apple?
4. How many leaves does it take to feed one apple?
5. What happens to the apples if no one picks them?
6. Where do apple trees come from?
7. What is Johnny Appleseed's real name?
8. How many bushels of apples are grown in the United States? In Canada?
9. When do apple blossoms begin to bloom?
10. How are blossoms pollinated?
11. When are apples ready for harvest?
12. How are apples harvested?
13. What are some varieties of apples grown in the United States?
14. What states produce the most apples?

15. How many varieties of apples are grown worldwide?
16. How do you store apples so they last for months?
17. What are the steps to making cider?
18. What are peeled apples used for?
19. Why do apple farmers plant different varieties of apples in their orchards?
20. What are the parts of an apple?
21. How many years does it take for an apple tree to produce its first fruit?
22. How much does a bushel of apples weigh?
23. How much did the largest apple ever picked weigh?
24. What does PLU stand for and what is its function?
25. What percent of apples harvested in the United States are eaten fresh?
26. What does a plant breeder do?
27. How do you become an apple farmer?
28. What challenges do apple farmers face?
29. In what season do farmers prune their trees?
30. Why is thinning important?