

ILLINOIS

# Junior Ag Mag

## An Apple A Day

Have you heard the saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away"? Apples are a super healthy snack. Read more to learn how these amazing fruits are grown.

# APPLES

Apples are grown in every state in our country. Farmers in the U.S. grow over 5 million tons of apples every year. This is enough apples to fill 33,000 classrooms to the ceiling with apples. People in America each eat about 48 apples every year.

Apples are a fruit that grows on trees. A group of apple trees is called an orchard. An apple starts as a flower on the tree in spring. These flowers are called blossoms. Bees land on these blossoms and move pollen from one tree to another. This is called pollination. The apple will grow for months until it is ready to pick by hand.



There are many different kinds of apples to eat. Apples come in different colors, sizes, and

flavors. Some apples are better to eat fresh. Other apples are better to make into applesauce, apple pies, or apple juice. ***How many kinds of apples have you tried? What is your favorite kind of apple?***

Apples are ready to harvest, or pick, in the fall months of September and October. Apples are stored in special coolers that keep the apples fresh for a long time. If you eat an apple at the end of the school year in the spring, it was probably picked at the beginning of the school year in the fall.

In the winter, apple growers prune their trees by cutting off some of the branches. This helps to grow even more apples for next year.





## Visit an Apple Orchard

Many apple orchards welcome visitors in the fall. You can pick your own apples from the tree and see what it is like to work at an apple farm. You can also buy apples that have been picked and lots of yummy foods made from apples. One of the best treats in fall is apple cider.

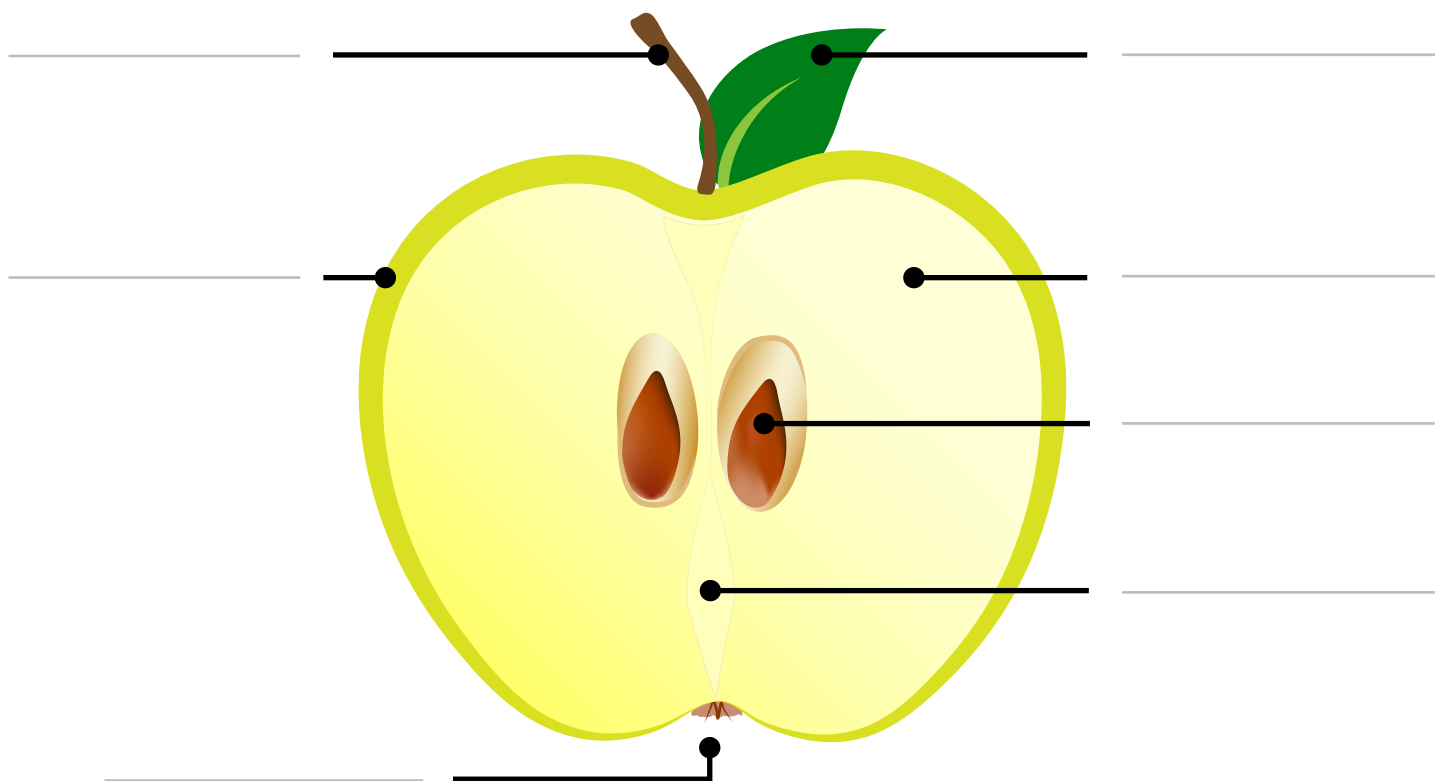


## Parts of an Apple



The outside of an apple is called the peel. The inside part is called the flesh. At the center of an apple is the core and the seeds. ***Did you ever wonder what the little brown nub at the bottom of an apple is?*** That is called the calyx [kal-iks]. The calyx is what used to be the apple blossom.

Use the word bank to label the parts of an apple.



### Word Bank

peel   flesh   seeds   core   stem   leaf   calyx

Write 5 adjectives that describe how an apple tastes.

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