

Apple Games & Activities



There are many games and activities that can focus around apples and orchards. These can be fun for people of all ages.

Apple Peeling - Have a go at peeling an apple all in one go! Who can get the longest peel? Use the apple peel to make words and take pictures of it.

Common Ground co-ordinate an annual national competition. The winners of the 2004 competition:

16 and under: 1st Paul Dowding from Ipswich, Suffolk with 294cm, 2nd Jemma Clark of the Wirral with 257cm, 3rd Becky McGilleuray from Fordingbridge, Hants with 78.74cm
Over 16: 1st Adele Temple from Chelmsford, Essex with 400cm, 2nd Joan Phillimere from Damerham, Hants with 257.18cm, 3rd Helen from Cambridge with 198.70cm

Winners are awarded prizes of Common Ground books and posters. Log on to www.commonground.org.uk/peel.doc for a competition form.

Apple Bobbing - Place apples in a bowl of water. The challenge is to try and pick up an apple only using your teeth! A variation is to have the apples on strings hung from the ceiling (or the branch of a tree).

Pin the Maggot on the Apple - Using a giant picture of an apple with a maggot hole in it, ask blindfolded participants to try and 'pin the maggot on the apple' trying to get it as near to the hole as possible.

Apple Hats - Cut out a piece of card 7cm by 70cm, staple or sellotape this to fit around your head. Cut out and colour a range of apple shapes, you could use pictures from catalogues or magazines. Stick these onto the band to make your own apple hat!

Apple Poetry - Brainstorm words associated with apples. Write acrostic poems on the benefits of eating apples (healthy eating) using these words into apple shapes. (An acrostic poem is one where you choose a word or name (like the name of a character in a book) and use each letter in the name as the beginning of a word or line that tells something about that person or character.)

Food Miles/Local Produce

- ✓ Survey local shops or supermarket to see how many varieties of apple they sell and where they come from.
- ✓ Look at maps of the world to see how far the produce has traveled to reach where we bought them. Use this as a starting point for discussing food miles and the impact of buying fruit locally as opposed to from overseas. Use persuasive writing to write letters to the stores asking them to stock more local fruit or use our campaigning postcards.
- ✓ Buy different varieties of apples and have a taste challenge to see which the group enjoys the best. If you are working with more than one group you can compare results using graphs and charts.



Orchard Food Web Game

This game looks at the biodiversity of traditional apple orchards. It also demonstrates food webs and interdependence in a very visual way.



Equipment required

- ✓ Ball of wool
- ✓ Pictures of creatures living in and around an apple orchard (see list below for details and visit www.arkive.org for quality downloadable pictures). It is better to create a balanced habitat by having more insects and fewer predators from higher up the food chain.

How to run the activity

- ✓ One child is chosen to be the apple tree in the orchard.
- ✓ Standing in a circle around the 'tree' each child is given a picture of an insect, bird or animal living in or around an orchard.
- ✓ Ask the children if any of them have a creature that might eat the leaves of the tree – one of the insects can then be 'connected' to the tree using the ball of wool. They are then asked what might eat the insect and the string is passed to the child with that card, this continues along the food chain when no more links can be made between a group of creatures the wool can be cut. The chain begins again at the tree. When all tree children have been connected with at least one piece of wool the interdependence and connectivity of all the creatures can be demonstrated through the weakening or removal of a link – i.e. the destruction of the tree or the killing of a particular species. This can be demonstrated through the affected creature tugging on their bits of wool, all those who feel a tug give a tug and so on and everyone in the group should feel the impact.

Species Common to Traditional English Apple Orchards:

Creatures in brackets are those that these directly feed on

Insects

Aphids
Apple Sawfly
Click Beetle
Gingery Bumble Bee
Hoverflies
Lacewing
Ladybirds (Aphids)
Plant Hoppers
Small Soldier Beetle (aphids & plant hoppers)
Stag Beetle
Woodworm Beetle

Moths & Butterflies

Codling Moth
Small Magpie Moth
Comma
Large White

Birds

Blackbird
Blue Tits (Codling Moth, aphids)
Buzzard (rabbits, blue tits)
Little Owl (insects, earthworms & voles)
Sparrowhawk (fruit eating birds)
Tree Sparrows

Mammals

Brown Long Eared Bat (insects and over-ripe fruit)
Deer (fruit)
Fox
Hedgehog (fruit)
Rabbit (fruit)
Vole