FRESH STORY | APPLES

AN APPLE FOR EVERY TASTE

Red , green, or yellow,
Crunchy, tart, and sweet,
Whole, sliced, or in a sauce,
Apples are a treat!

SOME ARE SWEET.	SOME ARE TART.	SOME ARE DARK RED.	SOME ARE MULTICOLOURED.	SOME COME FROM AFAR.	SOME ARE HOMEGROWN.
HONEYCRISP	GRANNY SMITH	SPARTAN	FUJI	GALA	AMBROSIA

photos credit: bctreefruits.com

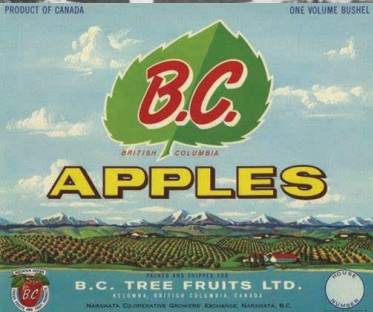## GREAT, GREAT, GREAT GRANDPARENT APPLE TREES

More than half of all of BC's orchard land is planted with apple trees, but apples haven't always grown here. BC's apple industry started with one tree and grew from there.

- Early settlers from Europe brought apple seeds and planted apples for food.
- Okanagan orchards were once rangeland for cattle and wheat fields.
- Early orchard apples provided fresh fruit to gold prospectors heading north.
- New railways and roads meant growers could sell more fruit, so they planted more trees.
- Farmers switched from growing big trees to growing small trees closer together.
- Growers shipped their apples in wooden crates with their own colourful labels.

Nearly 100 years ago, Okanagan fruit growers teamed up to form the BC Tree Fruits cooperative so that they could work together to sell, pack, and transport their crops. Having a BC Tree Fruits green leaf sticker on an apple still means it was grown close to home.

bcfga.com/Credit – Penticton Museum

PRODUCT OF CANADA — ONE VOLUME BUSHEL
B.C.
BRITISH COLUMBIA
APPLES
B.C. TREE FRUITS LTD.
KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
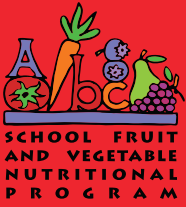NARAMATA CO-OPERATIVE GROWERS' EXCHANGE, NARAMATA, B.C.

THANK YOU BC FARM FAMILIES!

Almost all of BC's apples are grown on family farms in the hot, dry Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys. Just like the early farmers, today's BC apple farming families usually live and work on their orchards. Growing apples is a job and a way of life. Grandparents and even children help to look after the orchard, harvest the fruit, and pack it or sell it at their farm stand. The work is hard, but it feels great to get the job done together.

BC's farm families have always been very important. They work hard to take care of the land to produce healthy and nutritious food. Our farm families also create jobs. Farm families grow the fruit that BC packing house workers clean and pack, that BC truck drivers transport, and that BC grocery store workers sell. Most importantly, BC farm families help feed everyone in our province, just as they have been doing for many generations.

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BC's first apple trees were planted in 1859 in Kelowna by a missionary priest named Father Pandosy. The Okanagan's first commercial orchard did not appear until over 30 years later. As the number of orchards and markets grew, Okanagan growers joined together to start BC Tree Fruits in 1936. Today, over 400 farm families work together in the BC Tree Fruits cooperative. For more information on the rich history of BC's apple growing industry, see *A Fruitful Century: The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association 1889-1989.* (https://www.bcfga.com/219/A+Fruitful+Century)

ACTIVITY: TELL AN APPLE ORCHARD STORY

Curriculum Connection: Language Arts - grades 1 to 3: Engage actively as listeners, viewers, and readers, as appropriate, to develop understanding of self, identity, and community. First Peoples Principles of Learning: Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

Review "Great, Great, Great Grandparent Apple Trees" on the student side of the sheet with your class. Ask students what things they would need to think about (seeds, land, labour, packing, transporting, selling, etc.) if they wanted to grow apples in the Okanagan Valley 100 years ago. How might family and community help, and what might they learn through oral history? Have students tell the story of their apple orchards to a partner, then have them write and/or illustrate it.

Although early settlers to BC brought apple seeds with them from home to plant as a food source, remind students that apples were not the first fruits valued by people in BC: First Peoples have been harvesting many types of fruit (Saskatoons, wild strawberries, blueberries, crabapples and more) in the area that is now known as BC long before the settlers arrived.

ACTIVITY: THANK A FARM FAMILY!

Curriculum Connection: Language Arts - grades 1 to 3: Explain the role that story plays in personal, family, and community identity.

Ask students to brainstorm some of the tasks that apple growers do, then write them on a whiteboard. Explain to students that running an apple orchard is a lot of work, but farm families take great pride and care in growing delicious apples. That's why it's important to recognize their accomplishments. Have students write a letter to a farm family thanking them for a job well done. Letters can be mailed to:

BC Tree Fruits Cooperative
Kelowna Head Office
BC Tree Fruits
1473 Water Street   or   letters can be emailed to: info@bctree.com
Kelowna BC
V1Y 1J6

MATH ACTIVITY

Curriculum Connection: Mathematics - grades 1 to 3: Connect mathematical concepts to each other and to other areas and personal interests. ADST - grades 1 to 3: Demonstrate their product, tell the story of designing and making their product, and explain how their product contributes to the individual, family, community, and/or environment.

What kind of trophy would students like to receive if they were an apple grower?

For each student, cut an apple into 8 slices, then cut each slice in half. Provide students with toothpicks and ask them to build a trophy by pushing the toothpicks into the apple slices (tell them to push them in gently so that the apple pieces don't break). Have students give their trophies a name that reflects their best accomplishment as an apple grower.

The name for my trophy is _____.
I used ____ toothpicks and ____ apple slices.
My trophy is ____ tall.
I can see these shapes in my trophy:

☐ triangles   ☐ squares   ☐ rectangles
☐ faces   ☐ edges   ☐ vertices

AWESOME APPLE VOCABULARY

Cooperative: a group, such as farmers, working together and sharing the same goals and benefits.

Oral history: information passed down by words from one generation to another.

Settler: a person who moves, often with a group of others, to live in another country or area. Settlers in BC moved onto lands of Indigenous peoples.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Ask students to describe the apple they ate at school today to their families – colour, texture, taste – and see if they can guess what type it is.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation bcaitc.ca

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