

Name: _____

Date: _____

Plants Through the Seasons

Have you ever bitten into a crisp sweet apple? Apples grow on trees that are alive and changing. In winter, the tree is covered with snow. Not much seems to be happening to the tree, but it is still alive, waiting for the warmth of the spring.



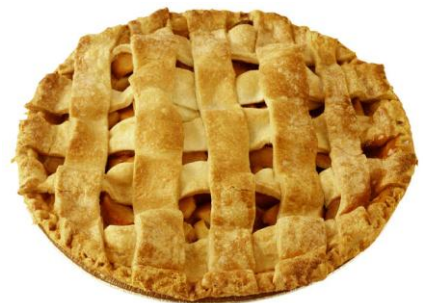
In the spring buds form and swell, flowers then grow on the tree. Bees busily fly from one flower to the next, gathering nectar. After a few weeks the flower pedals fall off and tiny apples begin to grow.

During the summer, the sun plays an important part in helping the tree make apples. Water from the ground travels through the roots, the trunk and branches to the leaves. Inside the leaves, the water mixes with the sugar made when the sun shines on the leaves. This sugary water, called sap, helps the apples grow larger and sweeter.



In the fall, the apples are ripe and ready to eat. Not all apples are picked. Some may fall to the ground and be eaten by animals. Others may rot and their seeds sink into the soil to become new plants. The weather becomes colder and the leaves change colour and then fall off the tree. By the end of autumn, the apple tree has lost all of its leaves and apples.

Now the tree is ready for winter. If you look closely at the tree during the winter, you will see buds. Inside the buds are tiny flowers and leaves waiting to grow again. Meanwhile, you can enjoy eating apples in many ways, like delicious apple pie!



In the boxes below, draw an apple tree through the four seasons. Label the season and briefly explain what is happening with the tree.

Winter - Tree should have no leaves, buds, flowers or fruit. The tree is dormant, waiting for spring.

Spring - Tree should show buds or flowers. No big apples should be on the tree. Buds form, then flowers, then the flowers turn into small apples.

Summer - Tree should have apples on it. The sun is providing energy to grow the apples.

Fall - Tree should have some apples and some on the ground. The apples are ready to be picked and will fall off.