



Apple Blossoms

Create apple blossom art while you learn how apples grow.



An **orchard** is an area of land planted with fruit or nut trees. Orchards can have just a few trees or hundreds of trees.

The smell and sight of **apple blossoms** is a favorite sign of spring for many people. The sweet smell of the blossoms attracts bees and other insects. As these insects fly from tree to tree and flower-to-flower they **pollinate** the blossoms, which will later become apples! Apples are a special fruit because they need to be **cross-pollinated**. This means that when your Red Delicious apple was just a blossom, it may have received pollen from a Gala apple blossom!

After the apple blossoms fade, **tiny green apples** begin to appear where the blossoms were. The apples grow all spring and summer. In Maryland, apples are ripe and ready to harvest during the fall months. Large orchards use mechanical equipment like lifts to help apple pickers harvest their apples. Many of their apples are sent to factories where they are sorted, specially stored, and shipped to stores and food companies. The apple pickers at small orchards use fewer machines and do more hand-picking using ladders during harvesting. They often sell their apples to local customers who visit the orchards and farmer's markets.

Recommended Ag Literature:

How do Apples Grow?
by Jill McDonald

To watch a video showing bees pollinating apple blossoms click [here](https://tinyurl.com/y3devm7a).
<https://tinyurl.com/y3devm7a>

To read a book about Hayden and his family's apple farm click [here](https://tinyurl.com/yx943ykx).
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To see a list of Maryland orchards click [here](https://tinyurl.com/y2r298lv).
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Apple Blossom Art

For this activity you will need:

- heavy white paper
- brown, green, and pink paint
- containers for paint
- paint brush
- soda or water bottle with sectioned bottom

1. Use brown paint to make branches.



2. Use green paint to make small leaves.



3. Put pink paint in a small container. Dip the bottom of the plastic bottle in the paint.



4. Press the bottle onto the paper. For best results press and wiggle the bottle a tiny bit.



5. Add more apple blossoms to your tree branches.

