



Apple Colors

OBJECTIVE: Read to learn about the colors on an apple farm.

STANDARDS: Science: Organisms and environments; properties of objects and materials; life cycle of organisms; Social Studies (NCSS): Production, distribution, and consumption

“An apple can be as small as a cherry or as big as a grapefruit!”

BEFORE READING

Preview

Take a picture walk to introduce Clifford the Big Red Dog.

Show children the front cover and ask, “Who is holding the basket of apples? Do you recognize him?” Many children may be familiar with Clifford and his friends. Point out Emily Elizabeth on the cover, and then open the issue. Can children spot any of the characters hiding in the photos? Explain that children will see Clifford and his friends each month in an issue of *Scholastic News*.

DURING READING

Understand Text Features

Help children use color coding to read color words.

After reading the section about trees, pause to ask, “What do you notice about the print? Are all the words the same color?” Point out that one word is in green—the word *green*! Next, show children the matching color frame around the picture. As you continue through the issue, pause before each color word and invite children to read it themselves.

AFTER READING

Brainstorm

Brainstorm more items of each color that might be seen on a farm.

Explain that many apple farms have more than just apple trees. Invite children to sing “Old McDonald” to recall what animals are found on farms. Then, return to each color word in the issue. Ask, “What else on a farm might be this color?” Ideas might include green grass, red roosters, blue blueberries, brown horses, or white sheep.

READ ALOUD BACKGROUND

All About Apple Farms

- Another name for an apple farm is an **apple orchard**. An orchard is a place where fruit trees are grown. There are pear orchards, orange orchards, peach orchards, and cherry orchards.
- Apple farmers can do many things with their apples. They can make apple pies to sell. They can also make apple cider and even apple doughnuts. And of course, they sell just plain apples right off the tree—fresh and delicious!
- At some apple farms, people can pick their own apples to take home. Many orchards even grow a special kind of apple tree called a **dwarf tree**. What’s special about it? It doesn’t grow very tall, so it’s just the right height for kids to reach!

Juicy Apple Facts

- There are many kinds of apples, and they come in different colors and sizes. Apples can be red, yellow, green, pink, and even orange. An apple can be as small as a cherry or as big as a grapefruit!
- There is an old saying, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” If you ate an apple every day, do you think it would keep you from ever getting sick? Probably not. But apples are very good for you. They have lots of vitamins, which can help keep you healthy. Apples even help to clean your teeth.

Apples, Apples, and More Apples

- Did you know that apples grow in all 50 states? The states that make the most apples are Washington, New York, and Michigan.
- Each kind of apple has its own name, like Red Delicious or Granny Smith. Some apples have very interesting names. There’s the Winter Banana, the Golden Nugget, and the Pink Princess, just to name a few!