



Fall Fruits

OBJECTIVE: Read to learn about the fruits that are ready to be harvested in the fall.

STANDARDS: Science: Characteristics of organisms; organisms and environments; life cycle of organisms; Social Studies (NCSS): Production, distribution, and consumption

“Some apples are as small as cherries. Others are as large as grapefruits!”

BEFORE READING

Preview

Do a picture walk of the issue to introduce the **Magic School Bus** characters.

Show children the front cover and ask, “Do you recognize the characters sitting on the apples? Who are they?” Some children may be familiar with Ms. Frizzle and the students in her class. Open the issue, and have children look for Ms. Frizzle inside. Tell children she will arrive each month in an issue of *Scholastic News* to teach them about science topics.

DURING READING

Use Context Clues

Focus on the word **orchard** to build children’s vocabulary skills.

After reading the section about apples, pause to discuss context-clue strategies. Explain, “When you see a word you don’t know, you can sometimes find hints to the meaning in the words around it.” Read the apple text again and ask, “What is an **apple orchard**?” (*A farm where apple trees grow.*) “How do you know?” (*The definition is in the next sentence.*)

AFTER READING

Evaluate

Take a survey to find out which fall fruit most children like best.

Create a tally chart on the board or chart paper to determine children’s favorite fall fruit. Write the words *Apples*, *Pears*, *Grapes*, and *Cranberries* in a vertical row, leaving plenty of space between each. Then invite children up to the chart one at a time to make a tally mark next to the fruit they like best. When the chart is complete, count the results. You just might have found a new treat for snack time!

READ ALOUD BACKGROUND

Amazing Apples

- Apples don’t come in just red, yellow, and green. They can also be pink or orange. Some apples are as small as cherries. Others are as large as grapefruits!
- Apples were not always called “apples.” Long ago, they were called “winter bananas”. An apple was also called a “melt-in-the-mouth.” Do you think that’s a good name?

Perfect Pears

- Today, you can buy pears for less than one dollar. But in the 1800s, pears were hard to find. People paid more than \$20 to buy just one.
- Unlike apples, pears don’t get ripe on the tree. They get picked before they’re ready to eat, and finish getting ripe afterward.

Great Grapes

- More grapes are grown around the world than any other fruit. Almost all the grapes in our country are grown in California.
- Did you know purple grape juice might be good for your brain? As people get older, their brains do too. But scientists think drinking grape juice might help keep brains young and sharp.

Cranberry Crops

- Cranberries have been growing in our country long before the first Thanksgiving. Native Americans used cranberries for food and medicine, and to dye rugs.
- Long ago, a farmer discovered that good cranberries bounce. He poured his cranberries down the barn stairs instead of carrying them. Only the freshest ones bounced to the bottom. The rotten ones stayed on the steps. Today, a machine separates the cranberries that bounce from the ones that don’t!