

Apple Mania



Celebrate apples, the world's most popular fruit, by biting into any of these hand-picked apple activities with "appeal" across the curriculum.

Apples and Writing

For hundreds of years, apples have inspired popular tales and legends. Let apples inspire your students to write, too, and show them how much easier the writing process can be when thoughts are organized before the writing begins. Use the reproducible apple story map to demonstrate this visual framework for writing. If students have trouble coming up with their own ideas for a story, offer the following story-starter titles to spark ideas:

The Day I Gave My Teacher an Apple
Jack and the Applestalk
The Candy Apple Mystery
The Biggest Apple

Apples and Fairy Tales

The apple has played a key role in several favorite childhood fairy tales. In Grimm's *Snow White*, an apple was used to poison an innocent princess. And in *William Tell*, a Swiss archer was forced to shoot an apple from his son's head as punishment for disobeying the evil governor. It's possible that many of your students aren't familiar with the tales of *Snow White* or *William Tell*. In the interest of cultural literacy, share the recent retelling of the story of **Snow White** beautifully illustrated by Charles Santore (Random House). Another splendid version of this famous tale can be found in the storybook **Snow White** illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman (Little, Brown). You may also want to share Margaret Early's dramatic retelling of the tale of the medieval Swiss archer in **William Tell** (Abrams). Just for fun, add a little drama to your storytelling by sharing a recording of Rossini's *William Tell Overture*.

Apples and Storytelling

Have your students sit around you in a circle as you hold an apple and begin to tell this story....

"Once upon a time, there was a farmer named Old MacIntosh. Because he was old, folks thought he should retire from farming. But Old MacIntosh said 'Hogwash!' whenever he heard such talk and replied that all he wanted to do was live on his farm and grow apples. Old MacIntosh worked very hard to plant an orchard. He pruned the trees. He watered the trees. And he waited...year after year. But apples never grew. Not even one. Old MacIntosh didn't give up, though. He began to ask the townsfolk for advice. 'How can I make my apples grow?' he asked them. One neighbor told him to do an apple dance around his orchard and the apples would surely grow. So night after night, Old MacIntosh danced around his apple trees. But still no apples grew. So he asked the advice of a different neighbor, who said...."

At this point in the story, pass the apple and, one by one, have children add to the story to tell what else Old MacIntosh tried to make his trees grow apples. When the apple returns to you, continue the tale. Say...

"But this story had a happy ending. Old MacIntosh was returning to his farm from a short trip into town one day. A bee followed him much of the way, buzzing around his head and making a pest of itself. "Pesky old bee," said MacIntosh, "I ought to take you back to my farm and put you to work!" And that's when it dawned on him. The answer to his apple mystery was BEES! The bees feed on the nectar of the apple blossoms, spreading the pollen which fertilizes the flowers. THEN the apples grow. So Old MacIntosh didn't waste a moment. He found himself a beehive. He also got a few bee stings, but he didn't care because he knew that in the fall he would be crunching his very own apples. And that's the buzz around Old MacIntosh's farm."

At the end of the story, pass out a variety of apples and invite kids to take a big bite!

Apple History

Apples first grew in China and central Asia. In time, they made their way to Europe, where Spanish settlers brought them to Mexico and South America in the 1500's. The Pilgrims later planted apple seeds in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1600's, and the popularity of apples grew with a growing America. In the early 1800s, John Chapman, otherwise known as Johnny Appleseed, roamed the Ohio Valley planting apple tree seedlings. September 26, his birth date, is known as Johnny Appleseed Day. Share the tale of his life with your class with any of the following storybooks:

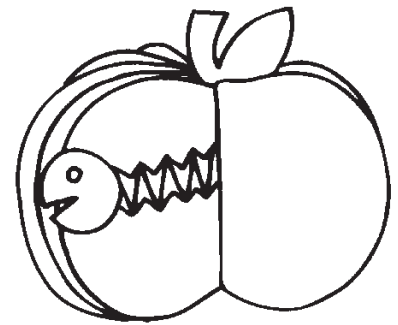
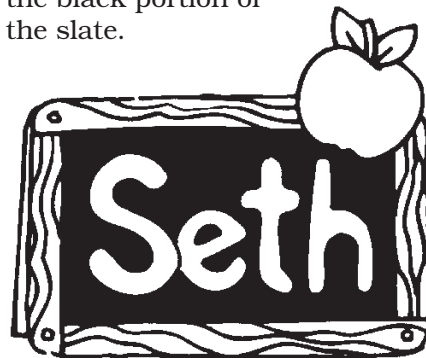
Johnny Appleseed by Reeve Lindbergh (Joy Street) is a splendid tribute to the life of Johnny

Appleseed and our colorful American folk art tradition. An audio-cassette version of the tale is narrated by Garrison Keillor for the Rabbit Ears collection by Simon & Schuster. And **The True Tale of Johnny Appleseed** by Margaret Hodges (Holiday House) is a masterful historical retelling of the legend by a storyteller with a special talent for bringing folktales to life.



Apple Folk Art

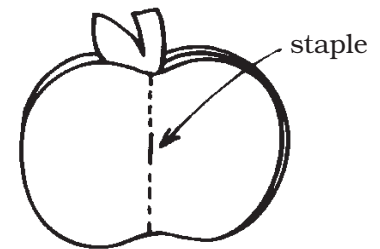
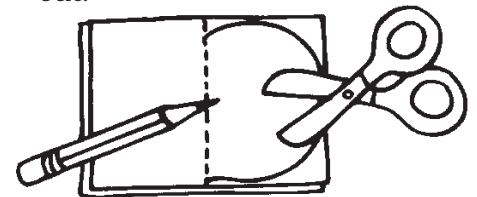
Create an apple name plate to help parents find their student's desk during Open House this fall. Duplicate a reproducible slate for each student to color and demonstrate how to cut out the area for the slate. Cut a piece of black construction paper slightly larger than this cut-out piece and glue it to the back of the slate. Carefully cut on the dotted line around the top of the apple so that it stands up and fold the slate in half to make it stand. Finally, have students use chalk to write their name on the black portion of the slate.



Apple Classroom Craft

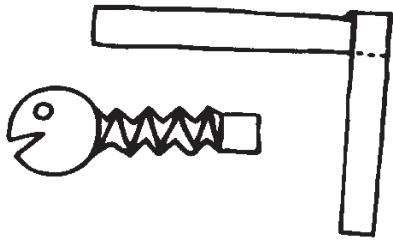
Here's a September craft idea that could easily decorate your room through October...3-D apples (complete with worm) to hang in the classroom. Duplicate the apple and worm patterns for students to trace. Provide each child with four 6"x 9" sheets of red (or yellow or green) construction paper. They'll also need a small scrap of green paper for the leaf/stem, and a half sheet of one other color for the worm... use up your scraps here. Provide scissors, glue, and a stapler, and follow these simple steps:

1. Fold the four 6" x 9" sheets in half. Trace the apple pattern on each folded sheet and cut it out.



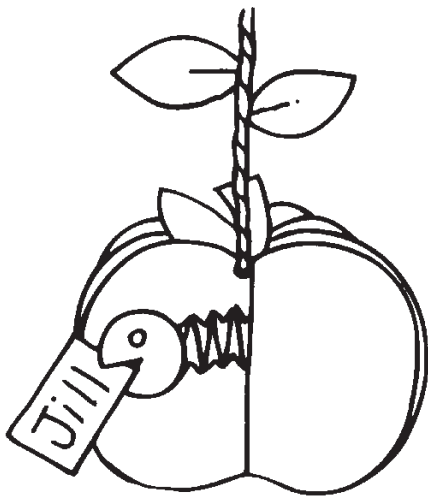
2. Unfold the apple halves and stack all four, aligning folds. Staple all together at center fold. Punch a hole 1/4" from the top (through all layers) for hanging. Fan out the sections to create a 3-D apple.
3. Trace the leaf/stem pattern on green paper and cut it out. Glue or staple it to center top of the apple.

4. Trace worm head on colored paper. Punch a hole for the eye as marked. Accordion-fold two strips (1/2" x 12") of the same color. Glue ends to hold, leaving the final tab loose at each end. Glue head to one tab and attach the other tab to the apple.



You may wish to give the worm a tag to hold in its mouth, identifying the student. Simply glue it in place.

5. Attach a piece of yarn or string to the hole at the center top for hanging. Apples may be hung singly from the classroom ceiling, or in groups. Or...you may wish to bring in a large dead tree branch to hang in the classroom for attaching all of the apples. Either way, they'll add a fresh, colorful touch to the room.



Optional: These 3-D apples can be used in several ways across the curriculum. After stapling the sheets together in step 2, the apple sections easily become the pages of a booklet. Students can write apple facts on the pages. Or the apple booklet can become

the format for a creative writing exercise, with students writing a poem, story, or simple apple adjectives on the pages. Finally, these apples make great decorative desk toppers for Open House. Attach a special student-written note to the worm's mouth—"Dear Mom and Dad...."

Apple Science

Did you ever wonder why your apple turns brown after you cut or bite into it? The reason is oxygen—the air we breathe. When you cut into an apple, it opens up the cells and releases an enzyme. This enzyme combines with oxygen in the air to darken the fruit. But you can slow down this process. One way is to put the fruit in the refrigerator. Another way is to add an acid which works to de-activate the process. Try this simple experiment with your class. Cut up an apple and place three slices on three different plates. Squeeze a wedge of lemon on one slice. Crush a Vitamin C tablet between two spoons and dissolve it in 1/2 cup of water. Pour three spoonfuls of the Vitamin C solution over the second apple slice. Do nothing to the third apple slice. Let the apples stand for an hour and see what happens. Kids should observe that the untreated apple turned brown. The other slices should look the same because both the lemon juice and Vitamin C solution were weak acids which prevented the browning process from occurring.

Apple Math

Here are three apple math exercises that give your students practice in estimating, counting, and graphing:

Seed Estimation

Before you give students an apple half, ask them to estimate the number of seeds in it. Then have them examine their apple half closely to determine how many seeds it actually has. An

old apple superstition suggested that you could foretell your future by the number of seeds in your apple. Two seeds meant an early marriage and three seeds meant an inheritance. Four seeds signified great wealth and five seeds, a trip across the ocean. Six seeds meant fame, and seven meant that your wish would come true!

Seed Count

Divide students into four groups and give each group a calculator. Place four checkerboards on the floor. Ask students in each group to take turns holding 20 (or more for older students) apple seeds in their hand and gently tossing them onto the checkerboard. Ask students to count the number of seeds that fall on red squares and the number that fall on black squares. Then subtract the black square number from the red square number. This number is the player's score, which all other players in the group try to beat. You can declare a winner after each round or set a goal to establish a winner.

Apple Graph

Very young students will enjoy coloring a copy of an apple pattern to look like their favorite kind of apple. After coloring, use the apples to create a giant bar graph showing apple preferences. Do more students like green apples...or red?

Apple Literature Link

The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons (HBJ) is a celebration of apple seasons through the story of Arnold, a young boy who enjoys a very special apple tree. Arnold's tree changes with each season, bringing him new and exciting adventures...a place for his swing, a tree house, even a place to build a snow fort. The tree becomes his secret place to play, and he watches as buds turn into blossoms and blossoms

turn into apples. Every season of Arnold's apple tree is filled with special fun! Share this story with your students and expand the experience with one of the following activities:

Apple Time Line

Apple trees change continually throughout the seasons of the year. After reading the story, create a time line for an apple tree using the story as a guide. Ask the children to brainstorm a list of all the changes to Arnold's apple tree. Then write the changes on 4" x 6" cards and string the cards on a clothesline in seasonal order.

Apple Seasons

Talk about the way Arnold's apple tree looked during each season...blossoms in spring, green leaves in summer, apples in the fall, and bare branches in winter. Use the reproducible page to help children illustrate the changes in each of the four seasons. Ask them to add details (swing, tree house, leaf pile, treats for birds, snow fort) to each seasonal tree. Attach a sheet of writing paper to the page and ask students to write about their favorite season.

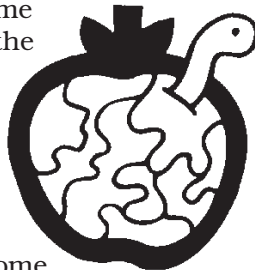
Bushels of Fun

An apple shape can be used for bushels of learning activities in language arts. Trace it to create shape books for writing creative stories, list apple adjectives or products made from apples, copy an apple poem for penmanship practice, write a book of apple riddles, or write free verse around the apple shape. It's the perfect stimulus for creative fun!

Apple Sun Catchers

Brighten up your classroom with some apple Sun catchers. Use the apple pattern to cut an apple-shaped frame from black construction paper. Cut two sheets of waxed paper using the apple shape as a pattern. Sprinkle some colorful crayon

shavings between the two sheets of waxed paper. Sandwich the waxed paper between the frames, place a sheet of paper towel over and under the apple, and enlist the help of an adult to press with a warm iron. Cut a slit in the frame for inserting the worm, and hang your Sun catchers from the ceiling or a sunny window. Catch some sunshine!



Apple Pie Geography

Students can take an imaginary trip around the world to collect the ingredients for the perfect apple pie with the help of a deliciously clever book—**How to Make An Apple Pie and See the World** by Marjorie Priceman (Knopf). From Italy for the best flour to Sri Lanka for the best cinnamon, your kids will laugh at the humor but learn all about world geography when they read this tale. Map the travels on your classroom wall map or globe.

Apple Finger Play

Here's a fun action chant to try with your class.

Way up high in the apple tree,
(Place both hands above head.)
Two red apples smiled at me.
(Shape hands as if to hold an apple in each hand.)
I shook that tree as hard as I could,
(Pretend to shake a tree.)
And down came the apples!
(Move hands in a downward motion.)
Mmmm...were they good!
(Rub tummy.)



Apple Nutrition

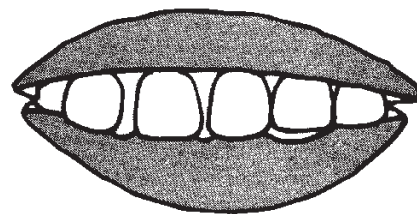
Serve up some apples or an apple snack like the one below. Before eating, talk about the nutrition found in an apple. Apples are nearly fat-free and low in calories, but they're high in fiber, which aids digestion. Apples are packed with vitamins and minerals that help keep bodies healthy, and they contain natural sugars which give the body energy. Apples even help to clean our teeth! Encourage kids to grab for an apple instead of a cookie the next time hunger strikes.

Apple Snack

Smiley Apple Snack

For each snack, you'll need two red apple wedges, two tablespoons of creamy peanut butter, and 5 mini marshmallows.

1. Spread peanut butter between the two apple wedges, with red skins facing out (lips).
2. Place marshmallows in peanut butter to simulate teeth.



Apples on the Web

If you have a computer and access to the Internet, kids will enjoy visiting these apple-wise websites. Try www.dole5aday.com/index.jsp for information and photos of your favorite apples. The website www.bestapples.com/kids/index.html offers a coloring book—"The World Famous Washington Apples and their Amazing Adventures"—which you can download, print, and color. Another valuable website is "Healthy Choices for Kids Online," at www.healthychoices.org.

Name _____

Story Title

Where does your story
take place?

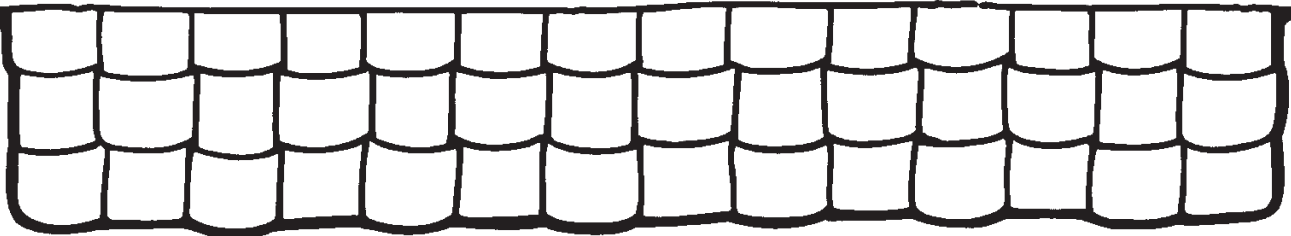
Who are the characters?

What is the problem?

What happens in the story?

How does it end?

My APPLE BUSHEL Story Map



Name _____

Seasons of an Apple Tree

In **spring**, buds turn into beautiful **white** blossoms.

In **summer**, the **green** leaves flutter in the wind.

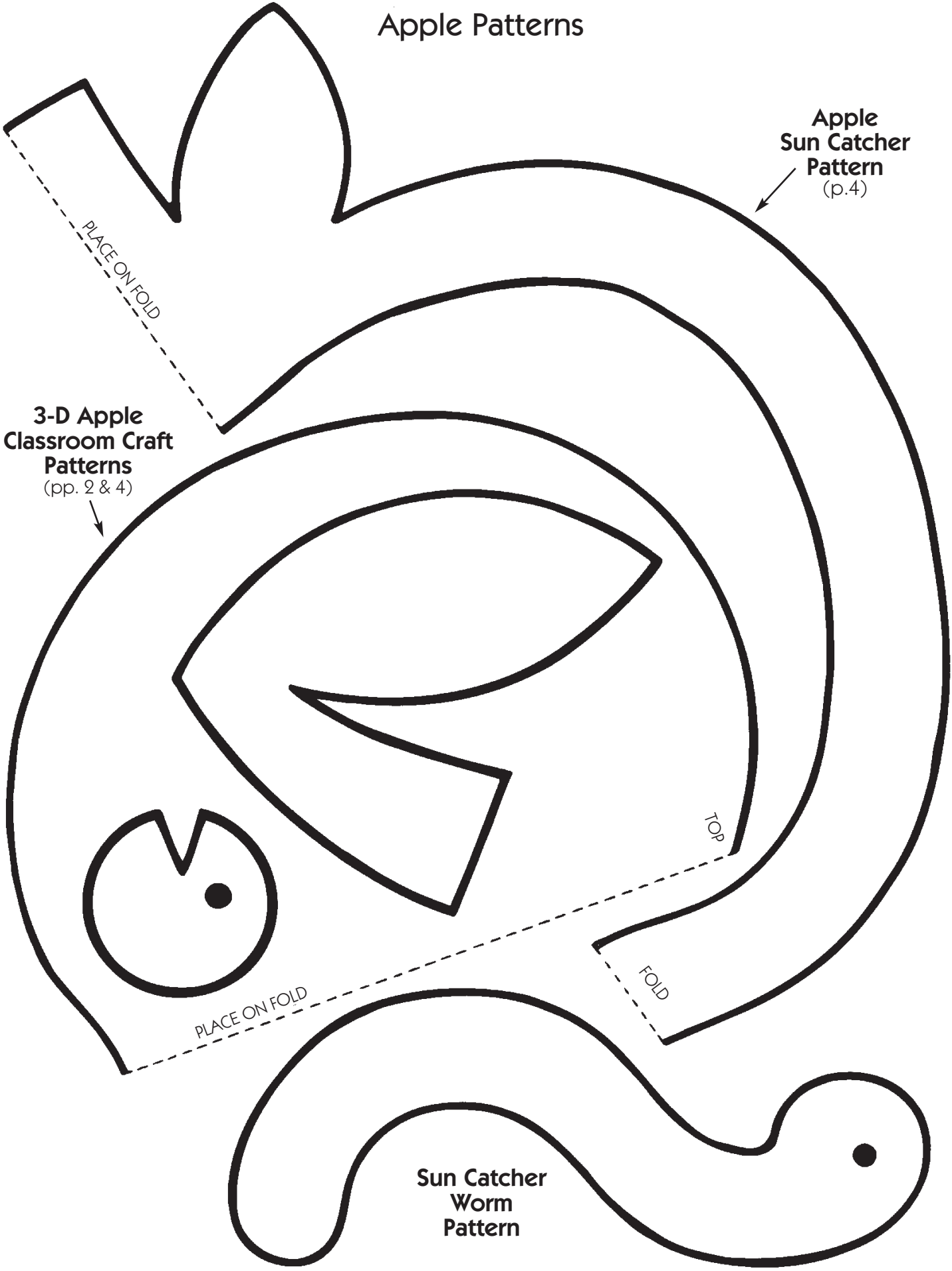
In **fall**, big **red** apples hang from the branches.

In **winter**, the **brown** branches are bare.

Apple Patterns

Apple Sun Catcher Pattern (p.4)

3-D Apple Classroom Craft Patterns (pp. 2 & 4)



Sun Catcher Worm Pattern

Apple Slate Pattern

