

Farm Links: Orchards

Apple Day Ideas



Apple Day is on 21st October every year, an annual celebration of apples, orchards and local distinctiveness. Initiated by Common Ground in 1990, it has since been celebrated each year by people organising hundreds of local events.

Seasonal events

- **Wassailing:** The Orchard-Visiting wassail refers to the practice of singing to trees in apple orchards in cider-producing regions of England to promote a good harvest for the coming year.
- **Tree Dressing:** Tree Dressing Day aims to encourage the celebration of trees in city and country - anywhere in the public domain. It highlights our responsibility for looking after trees and reminds us of their enormous cultural and environmental importance. Tree dressing is based on many old customs from around the world and at different times of the year. Groups and individuals dress their trees all over the country. **Always the first full weekend in December.**

- Create your own celebration of the trees in your school grounds. This cross-cultural community expression for everyday nature could include storytelling, dance, music, hanging ribbons, shapes, shining lights, anything which draws attention to the trees we often take for granted.

Activity ideas

- Board games – Apple solitaire, apple tree man and orchard scrumpers, red apple/green apple (5x5 board red and green apples for a pattern opposite each other 5 on back row, then 4, then 3 to 1 – leaving a square spare in the middle. The idea is to swap sides by moving in any direction except backwards or jumping over one another. The first to the other side in the original formation wins.)
- Apple Recipes– design and sell your own recipe cards or book

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Activity ideas cont.

- Games – apple snap (make up your own set of cards with matching pairs), pin the maggot on the apple, find your apple, apple charades, apple scrabble (using apple words), true or false (apple facts)
- Arts and Crafts – fruit collage, apple papermaking, apple hedgehogs, decorated apples
- Variety identification and tasting
- Fruity apple produce – demonstrations and sales
- Making & tasting Apple Juice (mix your own blends)
- Fruit tree sales and demonstrations of grafting
- Apple and spoon race
- Apple poems
- Storytelling
- Apple prints
- Apple bobbing
- Longest peel competition
- Design your own apple juice label
- Fruit swaps with local schools
- Tree planting
- Apple word search