

SCIENCE

Apple Sprouts

Students can observe the beginning stages of an apple tree's growth with this activity. Give each child a few apple seeds, a resealable plastic bag, and a paper towel. Guide them in following these steps.

- ☉ Moisten the paper towel with water. Fold the paper towel in half and place it inside the plastic bag.
- ☉ Place the apple seeds inside the bag on top of the paper towel. Close the bag partway, leaving an opening so that air can circulate inside.
- ☉ Place the bags in a refrigerator for six weeks.
- ☉ Bring out the bags, and spritz the paper towels with water to keep them moist but not soggy.
- ☉ As seeds begin to germinate, tiny roots and little shoots will appear.
- ☉ Plant the sprouts one inch deep in paper cups filled with potting soil. Keep in a sunny spot. Cover the cups loosely with plastic wrap to retain moisture and help seedlings survive over weekends.

SCIENCE, MATH

Apple Snack Science

Let children explore one of the ways people preserve food by drying apples. They'll discover the science of evaporation and strengthen math skills at the same time.

- ☉ Peel apples and slice them into rings. Ask children to predict how much the apples weigh. Record estimates, then weigh the apples.
- ☉ Have children team up to string apples. Give each team a length of string and some apple rings. Have children string the apples, then predict how much the apples will weigh after they dry.
- ☉ Clip the strings of apples to a clothesline strung up in the classroom. Cover with cheesecloth to protect the apples from dust.
- ☉ Ask students what they think will happen to the apples. (*They'll shrink and wrinkle as water evaporates.*) Let them record changes they observe.
- ☉ Weigh the dried apples. Compare with the weight of the apples before they dried. Ask students to tell what they think caused the change in weight. (*loss of water*) Let children enjoy their apple snack!



This activity was adapted from *Early Themes: Apples, Pumpkins, and Harvest* by Ann Flagg (Scholastic Professional Books, 1998). This book includes activities, literature links, activity pages, and more to explore fun fall themes.



Check for food allergies before serving the apple snacks.