

# Picture Book Patterns

## The Seasons of ARNOLD'S APPLE TREE

by Gail Gibbons  
Harcourt



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Celebrate apples and share 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!

### APPLE TIME

Apple trees change continually throughout the seasons. After reading the story, create an apple tree timeline using the story as a guide. Ask kids to think about the happenings in the story and brainstorm a list of changes in Arnold's apple tree. Write these changes on 4" x 6" cards and string the cards on a clothesline in seasonal order.



### APPLE TRAITS

Use apples to help children understand about words that describe objects. Collect a variety of different kinds of apples and ask children to look at them carefully. Work together to compile a list of descriptive words that tell about apples—smooth, green, yellow, shiny, colorful, sour, red, sweet, juicy—and write all the words on the chalkboard. Finally, use the "I Like Apples" reproducible chart and have the children write each of the descriptive words in the correct category to explain how apples look, taste, and feel.

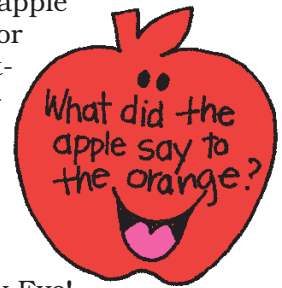


### BUSHEL OF FUN

Plan bushels of fun as you use the reproducible apple pattern for learning activities or creative projects in your classroom. Trace or reproduce the apple shape pattern and make shape books for writing creative stories, list words about apples or products that are made from apples, copy an apple poem for penmanship practice, collect



a book of apple riddles, or write free verse along the edge of the apple shape. Make an apple puzzle, an apple invitation, or use the pattern to create a great motivational reward—You're the Apple of My Eye! This apple shape is the perfect stimulus for creative fun!



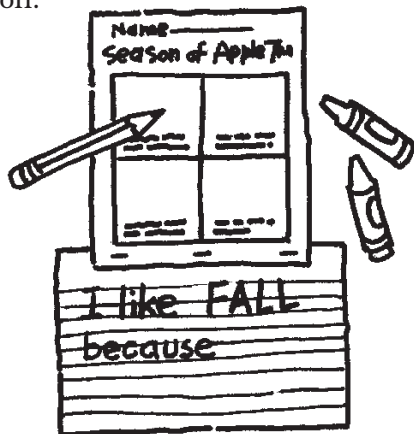
### BLOSSOMING WITH CREATIVITY

Display the imaginative efforts of your students on a bulletin board that blossoms with creativity. Cover the board with white paper and have kids decorate it with apple prints. Make the prints by cutting an apple in half, pressing the half on a stamp pad made of paper towel soaked in tempera paint, and printing the apple on the paper backdrop. Then tack up those creative stories, apple shape-poems, and pictures that tell all about apples.

### APPLE TREE SEASONS

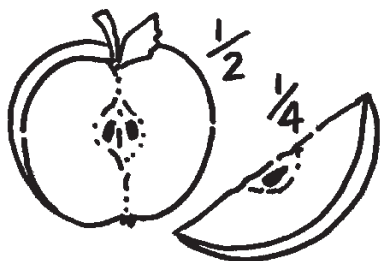
Talk about the way Arnold's apple tree looked during each of the four seasons...blossoms in spring, green leaves in summer, apples in the fall, and bare

branches in winter. Next use the reproducible worksheet to help children illustrate these changes using the sentences below each picture as a guide. Encourage kids to add details (swing, tree house, leaf piles, treats for birds, snow forts) to each seasonal tree to make the picture their own. Then attach a sheet of writing paper below the illustrations and ask children to write about their favorite season.



## APPLE MATH

Apples are a natural for some fun math projects. Give each child an apple and ask him/her to estimate how many seeds will be found in the apple. Then cut the apple in half and count the seeds. Then ask the children to compare their estimates with the actual number of seeds. Next use the apple to talk about fractions. Show students that each part of the cut apple is  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Ask the kids to trace the two halves on a sheet of paper and label each part as  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Cut each half portion again to show  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Have the children trace the four quarters of the apple and label each part  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Hands-on fraction fun!



## GROWING AN APPLE

Although apple seeds are not easy to grow and apple trees are not usually grown from seed, it's always fun to watch an apple seed sprout. Actually, it would take an apple seed you planted today about fifteen years to produce an apple. But, if you're patient and have lots of time, give it a try!

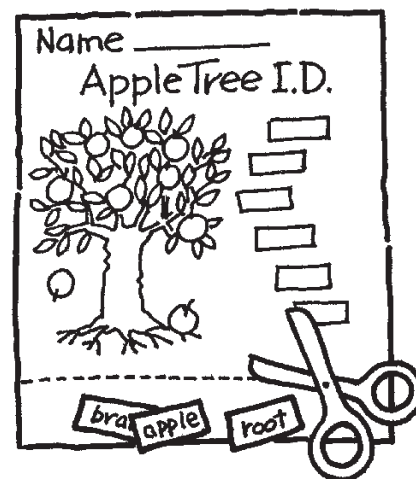
1. Fool Mother Nature by putting your apple seeds into the refrigerator for about six weeks. The seeds will think they've gone through a long, cold winter.
2. Now try to sprout your seeds by placing them between two sheets of damp paper towel tucked inside a plastic bag. Moisten the towel each day to keep it wet at all times. This step could take weeks, but be patient.
3. After the seeds have sprouted, carefully plant them about 1 inch deep in small containers filled with a soil-less potting mix. Egg cartons make good starting pots!
4. Plants should be kept moist and placed in a sunny spot.

## APPLE TREE I.D.

Learn about trees by talking about the different parts of an apple tree and explain the function of each part to the students. Then have kids use the reproducible Apple Tree I.D. page and label the apple tree. Ask students to cut apart the words at the bottom of the page and then glue them on the cor-

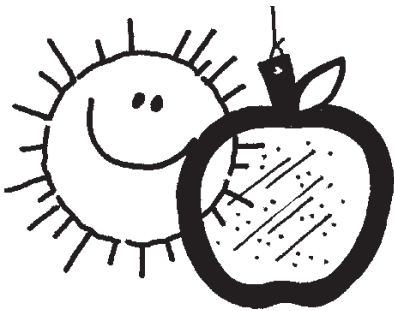
responding boxes so that each part of the tree has been named. Finish the page by inviting kids to color the tree.

- The roots are the part of the tree that we can not see. They act as an anchor holding the tree firmly in the ground so it won't tip over. The roots find water and minerals in the soil to keep the tree alive.
- The trunk supports the branches giving the tree strength. It also carries water and minerals from the roots up to the leaves and takes the food from the leaves down to the roots.
- The branches give the tree its shape and hold the leaves out to the Sun.
- The leaves are "food-making factories." Sun shines on chlorophyll inside the leaf and makes food from the carbon dioxide in the air and the water in the plant. While the leaf is making food it "breathes" out oxygen.
- The bark keeps the tree from drying out and protects the tree from insects and disease. It keeps the tree warm in winter and cool in summer.
- The apple is the fruit of the tree and contains the seeds. Once the seeds in a blossom begin to grow the blossom changes into an apple.



## APPLE SUN CATCHERS

Brighten up your classroom with some colorful apple Sun catchers. Use the apple shape reproducible pattern to cut a 1/2-inch apple-shaped frame from black construction paper. Cut two sheets of waxed paper the same shape as the frame (cut off stem and leaf) and sprinkle colorful crayon shavings between the two sheets. Place the waxed paper between a folded sheet of paper towel, and enlist the help of an adult to press with a warm iron. Glue the construction paper frame to the front of the waxed paper. Add a green construction paper leaf, punch a hole in the stem, and hang your Sun catchers from the ceiling or a sunny window. Catch some sunshine!



## APPLE PARTY TIME

Plan some apple time fun as a culmination activity to The Season's of Arnold's Apple Tree. Invite another class to join you at an apple party...send out apple invitations, decorate your classroom with garlands of apples, play a few apple games, and share a treat of warm apple cider. That's an apple party!

### • APPLE BOB

Play a game the pioneers used to play...bobbing for apples. You'll need a large tub filled with water and an apple for everyone. Place the apples in the tub and ask players to place their hands behind their backs. The trick is to catch an apple without touching it—trying to bite the apple while it bobs in

the water. It's wet, it's wild, and it's fun. And, oh do those apples taste good when you're done!

### • APPLE PASS

Divide the children into teams (at least six per team) and ask each team to stand in a line. The first player in each line begins by placing an apple under his/her chin. Then at the word go, he/she passes the apple to the next player without touching it or letting it fall. Players pass the apple from one to another until it reaches the end of the line. The team that passes it to the end first wins. If the apple falls or a player uses his/her hands, the apple returns to the front of the line. Lots of giggles with this game!

## APPLE CIDER

Share the information found in *The Season's of Arnold's Apple Tree* that explains how an apple cider press works to make fresh apple cider. Then purchase a gallon of apple cider from your local grocery store or apple farm and warm it in a large pot. Place a small package of cinnamon red hots and two cinnamon sticks in the pot to add a little extra spice. Serve the cider in small cups with handles. Warm, spicy cider for a special treat!

## APPLE LIT

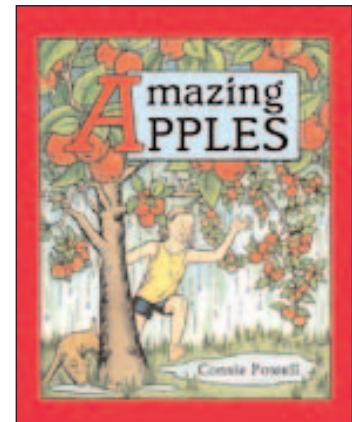
Experience added enjoyment as you share family stories and poetry that will keep kids thinking all about apples. **Up, Up, Up!: It's Apple-Picking Time** by Jody Fickes Shapiro (Holiday



House) relates the warm and loving story of a family and their wonderful day spent together picking apples, selling apples, and finally relaxing in front of the fireplace at the end of a memorable day.

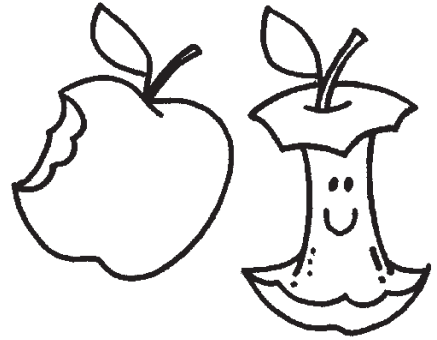
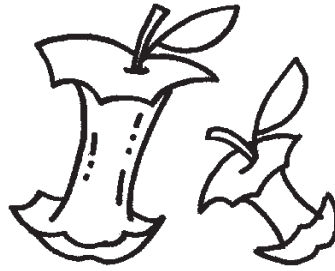
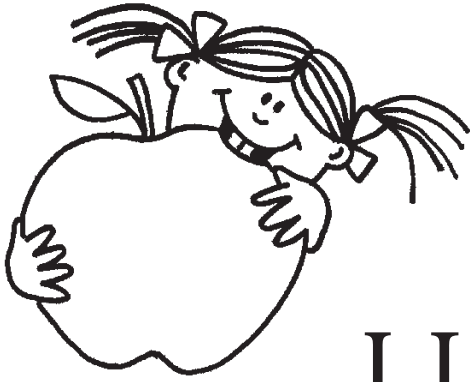


Learn about the cider making process as you share another family's experience in **Apple Cider Making Days** by Ann Purmell (Millbrook Press). From the picking and sorting of apples to pressing the mush into cider, the story will help kids discover how cider is made.



Then share some of Consie Powell's apple-themed acrostic poems in **Amazing Apples** (Albert Whitman). Readers follow a family and their orchard as they are taken through the seasons from early spring blossoms to apple-picking time to the bare tree branches resting in winter. The book includes facts about apples as well as some apple history and ideas for things to do with apples...drying them, baking them, and even planning a tasting party.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

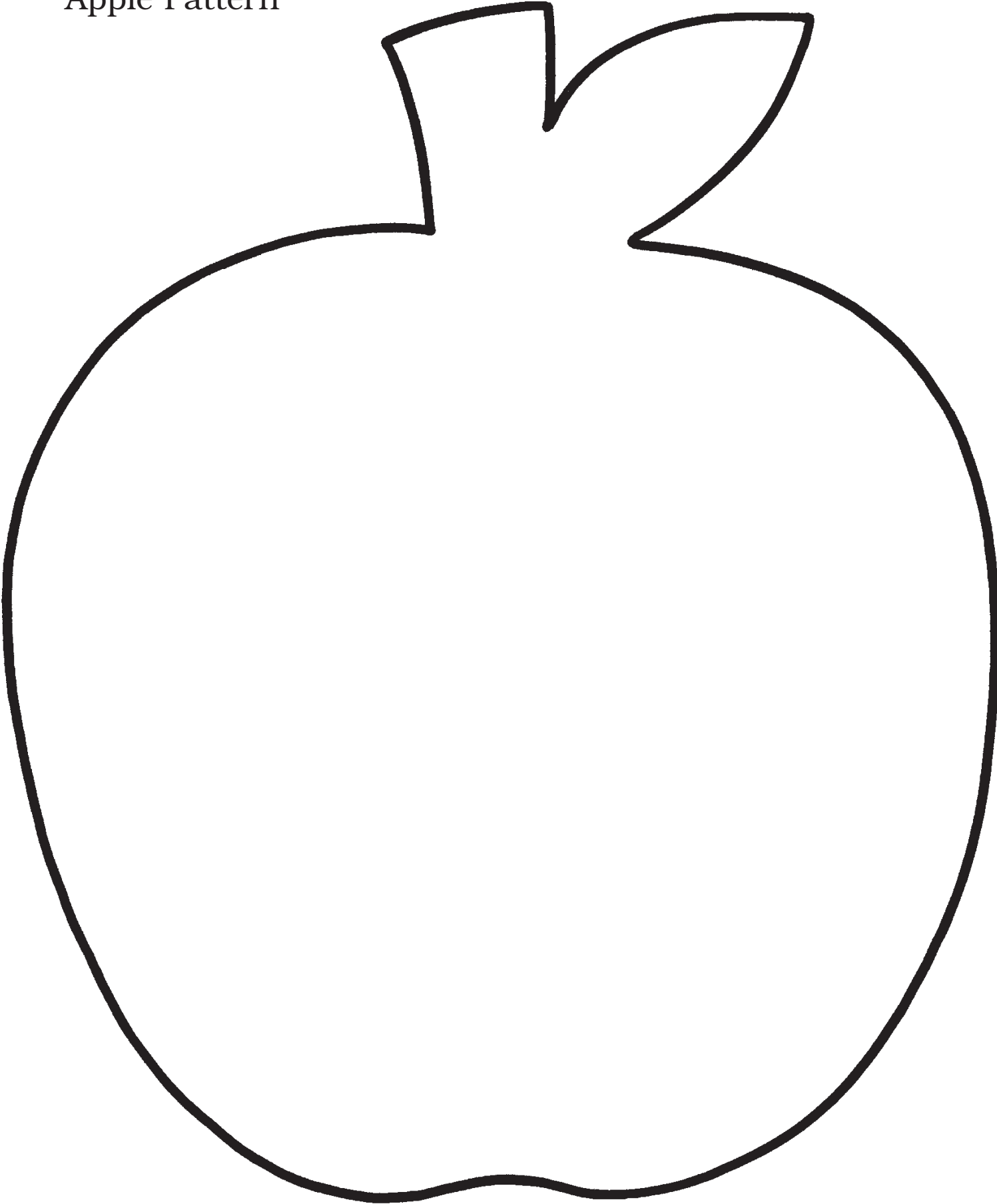


# I Like Apples

Write words that tell how apples look, taste, and feel.

look	taste	feel

Apple Pattern



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Seasons of an Apple Tree

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

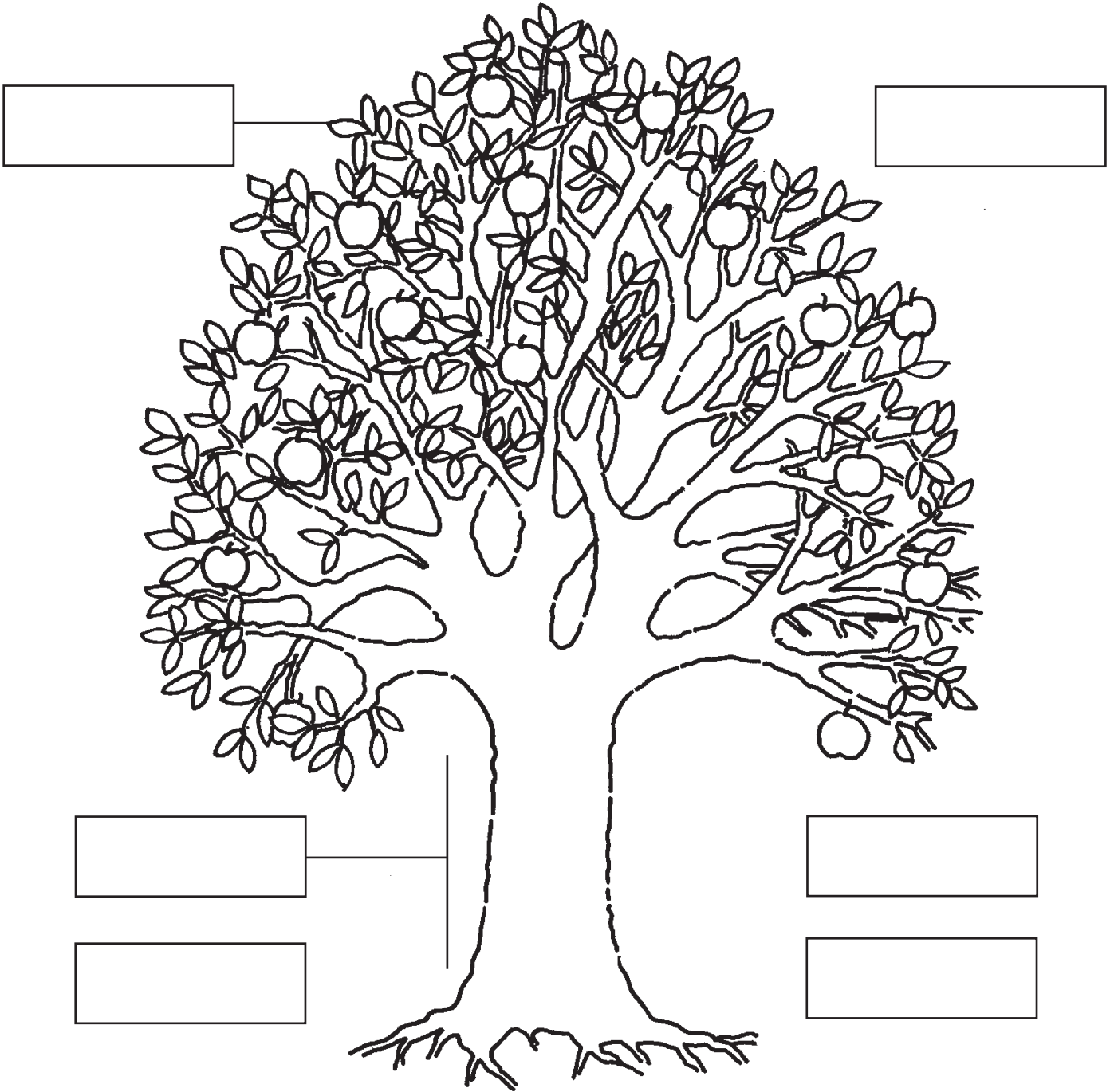
In **summer**, the **green** leaves flutter in the wind.

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Apple Tree I.D.



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roots	trunk	bark
branch	leaf	apple

Cut apart the words and glue them in the boxes to label the parts of the apple tree.