Name: _____ Date: _____

Many Apple Trees Need a Partner

Circle group

An apple tree grows blossoms in spring. But a blossom does not always turn into an apple. Many apple trees need pollen from a different kind of apple tree. Pollen is a fine yellow dust made in flowers.

Here is how it works. A bee lands on a blossom to look for nectar. Pollen sticks to her fuzzy body. She flies to a blossom on a tree of another kind. Some pollen rubs off. This is pollination. Now the blossom can grow into a fruit with seeds.

So growers plant different kinds of apple trees close by. Some growers bring in beehives in spring. More bees mean more pollen moves. That means more apples at harvest.

Questions

1. When does an apple tree grow blossoms?

_____

_____

2. What is pollen?

_____

_____

3. How does pollen get from one tree to another?

_____

_____

4. What is it called when pollen rubs off on a blossom of another tree?

_____

_____

5. What do some growers bring in during blossom time?

_____

_____

6. Why might an orchard with only one kind of apple tree have few apples?

_____

_____

Words to know

blossom: a flower on a fruit tree
pollen: a fine dust that flowers need to make seeds
pollination: moving pollen from one flower to another
harvest: the time when ripe crops are picked

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Many Apple Trees Need a Partner

Triangle group

An apple tree grows blossoms in spring. But a blossom will not always turn into an apple. Many kinds of apple trees need pollen from a different kind of apple tree. Pollen is a fine yellow dust made inside flowers.

Here is how it works. A bee lands on a blossom to look for nectar. Pollen sticks to her fuzzy body. She flies to a blossom on a nearby tree of another kind, and some pollen rubs off. This is called pollination. After that, the blossom can grow into a fruit with seeds inside.

So orchard growers plant different kinds of apple trees close together, such as a row of red apples next to a row of green. Some growers even bring in beehives during blossom time. More bees mean more blossoms get pollen, and that means more apples at harvest.

Questions

1. When does an apple tree grow blossoms?

_____

_____

2. What is pollen?

_____

_____

3. How does pollen get from one tree to another?

_____

_____

4. What is it called when pollen rubs off on another blossom?

_____

_____

5. What do some growers bring in during blossom time?

_____

_____

6. Why might an orchard with only one kind of apple tree have few apples?

_____

Words to know

blossom: a flower on a fruit tree
pollen: a fine dust that flowers need to make seeds
orchard: a field where fruit trees are grown
pollination: moving pollen from one flower to another
harvest: the time when ripe crops are picked

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Many Apple Trees Need a Partner

Square group

In spring, an apple tree is covered with blossoms, but each blossom does not automatically become an apple. Many kinds of apple trees require pollen from a different variety of apple tree. Pollen is a fine yellow dust that is produced inside flowers.

Here is how the process works. A bee lands on a blossom in search of nectar, and pollen clings to her fuzzy body. When she flies to a blossom on a nearby tree of another variety, some of that pollen rubs off. This is called pollination, and afterward the blossom can develop into a fruit with seeds inside.

For this reason, orchard growers plant different varieties of apple trees close together, such as a row of red apples next to a row of green. Some growers even bring in beehives during blossom time, because more bees mean that more blossoms receive pollen, and that means a bigger apple harvest.

Questions

1. In which season does an apple tree grow blossoms?

_____

_____

2. What is pollen?

_____

_____

3. How does pollen travel from one tree to another?

_____

_____

4. What is the name for pollen rubbing off onto another blossom?

_____

_____

5. What do some growers bring into the orchard during blossom time?

_____

_____

6. Why might an orchard planted with a single variety of apple tree produce few apples?

_____

_____

Words to know

blossom: a flower on a fruit tree
pollen: a fine dust that flowers need to make seeds
orchard: a field where fruit trees are grown
pollination: moving pollen from one flower to another
harvest: the time when ripe crops are picked

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Many Apple Trees Need a Partner

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Many Apple Trees Need a Partner

Easier · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. In spring.
2. A fine yellow dust made in flowers.
3. It sticks to a bee's body and rubs off on another blossom.
4. Pollination.
5. Beehives.
6. No other kind is nearby, so the blossoms may not get the pollen they need.

Triangle: Many Apple Trees Need a Partner

This passage · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. In spring.
2. A fine yellow dust made inside flowers.
3. It sticks to a bee's fuzzy body and rubs off on another blossom.
4. Pollination.
5. Beehives.
6. Without a different kind nearby, the blossoms may not get the pollen they need.

Square: Many Apple Trees Need a Partner

Harder · 152 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.5

1. In spring.
2. A fine yellow dust produced inside flowers.
3. It clings to a bee's fuzzy body and rubs off on a blossom of another tree.
4. Pollination.
5. Beehives.
6. Without another variety nearby, the blossoms may not receive the pollen they need.