Color in the steps of the life cycle to learn more about how apples grow.
On **20,000 acres of Pennsylvania land**, more than **270 family-owned & operated orchards** produce as many as **440 million pounds** of more than **20 varieties** of apples every year, making Pennsylvania the **4th largest producer** of apples in the country.

**HOW DO APPLES GROW?**

1. Because each appleseed is genetically unique, planting a seed from an apple will not grow a tree that produces that same fruit. Rather, to grow a particular apple, **bud wood from a mature tree of the desired apple variety is grafted to a rootstock** in a process called **chip budding**.

2. The grafted rootstock **grows into an apple-producing tree** in 3-5 years.

3. The apple tree rests in winter. In spring, **buds on the apple tree’s branches grow into leaves & flowers** (apple blossoms).

4. In the process of flying from tree to tree collecting nectar & pollen from apple blossoms, **honeybees transfer pollen from one tree’s blossoms to another tree’s blossoms**. This cross-pollination is necessary for an apple tree to bear fruit.

5. **The pollinated blossoms grow into apples**. The stems of the blossoms become the stems of the apples. **When the apples reach optimum ripeness they are picked by hand**, depending on the variety anytime between mid-July & mid-November.

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