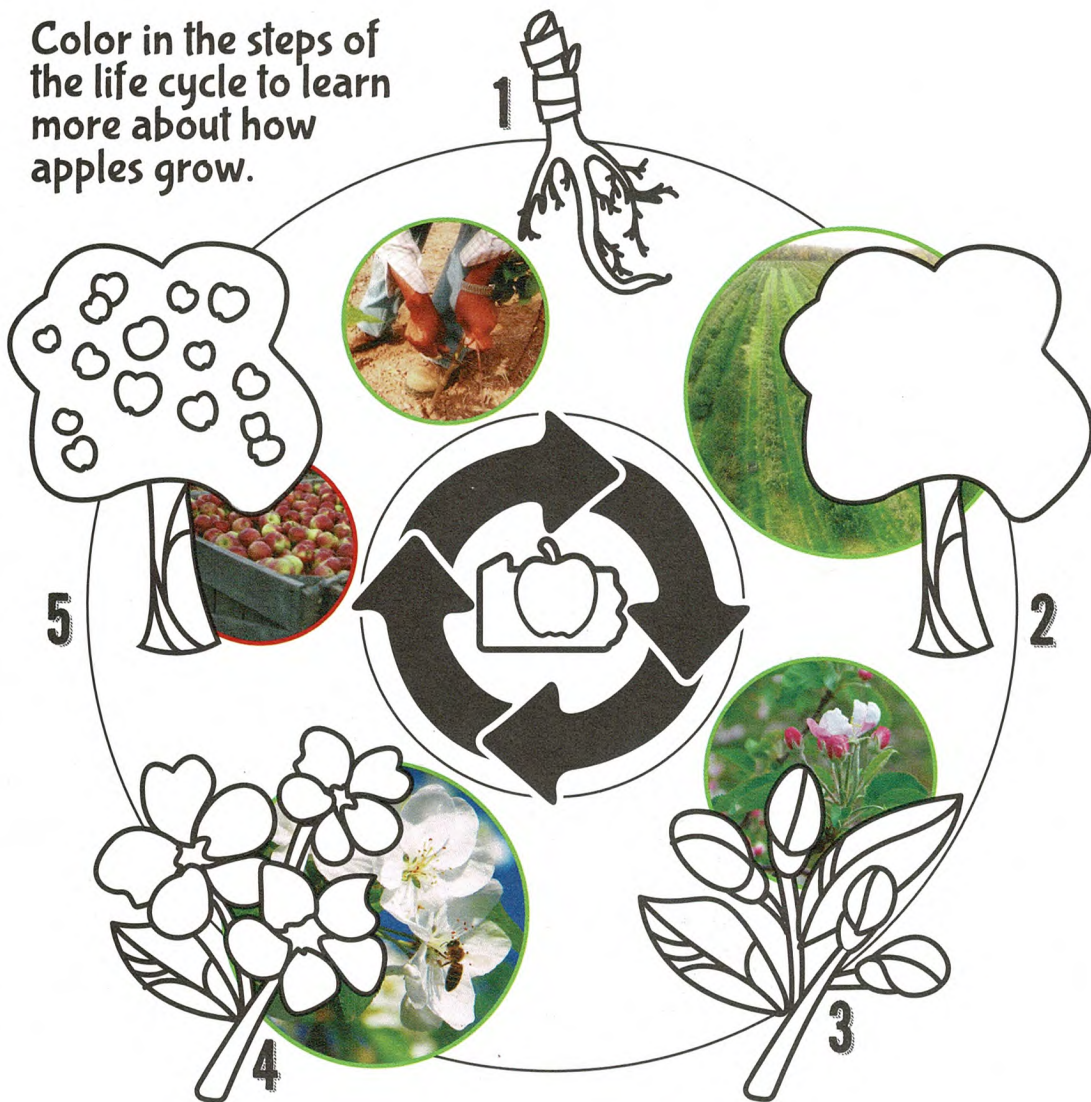







Color in the steps of
the life cycle to learn
more about how
apples grow.



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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