

Questions – A Special Tool for Learning

Looking at the history of science and the questions researchers have asked about apples in the past is important. It guides those trying to learn about growing better apples today. It keeps them from repeating earlier mistakes. Agricultural bulletins, gardening books, nursery catalogs, and Internet sources can provide important background for new inquiry.

Some questions provide entrance to organized data sources such as books, graphs, or computer data banks; other questions reveal information that appears to be unorganized such as archaeological artifacts, experiences in society, or some natural phenomena.

A question that reflects what we really want to know is the best question! With time and experience we learn that a carefully planned or phrased question based on experience or previous knowledge provides greater amounts of information than the initial factual type. Sometimes a series of questions helps to slowly unfold the sequences of information desired.

This list of questions is provided to help individuals or group leaders work alone or together to learn about apples. The sample questions can help them decide what information or experiences might be most useful to achieve their learning goals.

Inquiry is stimulated by authentic experiences. Opportunities available in the apple orchard and among the wild trees along the trails in the Kuse Farm and Museum Nature Preserve can help generate and answer questions.



Apple Questions

History

- What fossil records of apples exist?
- What ancient civilizations depict apples in their art and writing?
- When were apples used in ancient and recent history?
- Who was Johnny Appleseed?
- What impact did Johnny Appleseed have on American history?
- How have apples changed over time?
- When did people first start growing apples in Taylor County, Wisconsin?
- How can we learn about the early apple orchards in Taylor County, Wisconsin?
- Where did stores get apples before there were local orchards?
- What is the history of the apple trees in the Kuse Nature Preserve?
- What research has been done on fruit trees in the local area? (e.g. experimental orchards)

Geography

- From where did apples originate?
- What geographic locations are the sources of today's well-known apples?
- How have apples popular in one area been moved to other regions?
- How does climate affect the growth of various apple trees?
- What is a zone map and why is it important to apple growers?

Economics

- What jobs are related to the apple industry? (Growers, researchers, grocers, nursery owners, pickers, transporters, food producers, advertisers, etc.)
- What products are made from apples for aesthetic purposes?
- What uses can be made of the wood from apple trees?
- What does smoking with apple wood do to meat?
- What processes are used to make apple products?
- What products are made from the fruit of apple trees? (Raw eating apples, juice, vinegar, cider, wine, sauce, relishes, cooked apples, baked apples dried apples, etc.)

Sociology

- How have apples been used in family settings?
- What apple recipes have been developed and shared among people?
- How have apples been used in sports and games?
- What does the apple for the teacher symbolize?
- How have apples generally been used in society?
- How has Arbor Day affected the planting of apple trees?

Anthropology

- What place have apples had in the oral and written communication of societies?
- What part have apples had in the religions of society?

Political Science

- What health standards have been developed to be certain that apples and apple products are safe for consumption?
- What laws concerning truth in advertising apply to apples?
- What laws do people who transport apples need to consider?
- What laws about spraying apply to apples?
- What laws about grafting and sharing of varieties of apples have been made?
- What unwritten laws exist about apple ownership?

Art and Crafts

- How have apples been depicted in paintings?
- How have tree shapes, blossoms, and fruit been used in decorating dishes and other household objects?
- What types of apples have been made of wood, metal, cloth, plastic, or other materials?
- How are apple dolls made?

Music

- What folk songs about apples have been written?
- How have songs about apples changed?

Literature

- What stories have been written about apples?
- What poems have been written about apples?

- How have apples and apple themes been used in drama?
- How have apples been used to convey humorous ideas?

Science

- What is the structure and appearance of the trunk, branches, bark, leaves, roots, blossoms, and fruit of an apple tree?
- What is the nutritional value of various parts of an apple?
- How does the environment affect the growth of apples?
- How can you tell how old an apple tree is?
- How do apples grow on trees?
- Where is the nectar in an apple blossom?
- Why is pollen important in an apple blossom?
- How is a crab apple different from a larger apple?
- How can an apple tree best be grown from a seed?
- How have new varieties of apples been developed?
- How or why does girdling by mice or rabbits kill a tree?
- How does frost damage a tree trunk?
- What kinds of pests affect apple trees?
- What are some ways of controlling apple pests?
- How are pesticides used in apple production?
- How can pesticides be removed from commercially produced apples?
- Why is it important to wash apples before you eat them?
- How do you get the pesticides or poisons off of purchased apples?
- What chemicals do apple seeds contain?
- What are organic ways of protecting apples from pests?
- What relationships exist between apple trees and other plants?
- What relationships exist between apple trees and other animals? (Mammals, birds, insects and spiders, reptiles and amphibians, etc.)
- How do insects use apple trees?
- What insects help and what insects harm apple trees?
- How do honeybees help apple trees?
- What kinds of wild bees are important to apple trees?
- What kind of home attracts wild bees and how could one be made?
- What are some ways birds use apple trees?
- Why do some apples stay on trees throughout winter? What animals use these frozen apples?
- What is grafting?
- How is grafting done?
- Are there different kinds of grafting? How and why is each one done?
- Why are trees grafted?
- How can grafting be used to preserve special kinds of apples?
- Where can evidence of grafting can be seen on apple trees in the Kuse Nature Preserve?
- What is pruning?

- How do you prune an apple tree?
- What local people have knowledge about growing apples?
- What local people have knowledge about apple preparation, preservation and nutrition?