How Do Apples Grow?

Text and Original Artwork by Elina Bank, Food Educator at Spoons Across America
Autumn starts on September 21st every year. With the start of a new season, new fruits and vegetables come into season in your local community. In the Northeast of the United States, autumn brings apple picking season! Did you ever wonder how apples grow? Let’s find out!
America is the second largest apple producer in the world!

To make an apple tree of a specific variety, a branch from that kind of apple tree is GRAFTED to an existing seedling, creating a new tree!

Color in the tree and leaves. Make sure to use a different color for the branch that was grafted on!

www.spoonsacrossamerica.org
This process is repeated many times until the farmers create an apple ORCHARD.

Color in the orchard, road, and farmer. What color are the leaves in the spring?
Every spring, the tree produces small flowers called BLOSSOMS. Once these blossoms are POLLINATED, they will grow into delicious apples!

Color in the apple tree. Remember to color in the blossoms, which are usually pink, white, and yellow.

www.spoonsacrossamerica.org
Bees fly from blossom to blossom collecting nectar, and move pollen between the blossoms on different trees. This is called POLLINATION.

Without bees pollinating blossoms of fruit plants, we would not have any fruit to eat!

Color in the blossom and the leaves. Remember the colors on the bee’s abdomen.
By Autumn, the apples are RIPE. Some apples are HARVESTED by farmers to sell at the market.

Color in the tree, the leaves, and the apples. What color apples are your favorite?
And some orchards invite people like you and me to come to the farm to pick their own apples right from the tree!

Use all your coloring skills to color in the orchard in the back, the kids in the front, and their delicious autumn apples!