



**Johnny  
Appleseed**

# Johnny Appleseed

*What do you remember about seeds, blossoms or flowers?*

- **The life cycle of a plant begins with what part of the plant?**
- **What is another word for blossom?**
- **What do we call the special plant part that holds seeds?**
- **What are some of the fruits that Polly talked about?**

# Johnny Appleseed

You are going to hear a tall tale about a famous man named Johnny Appleseed, who lived long ago. A tall tale is a humorous story that stretches the truth. Can you guess, from his long name, what Johnny Appleseed's favorite fruit was? Listen carefully to find out about the special things Johnny Appleseed did that makes us remember him today.

# Johnny Appleseed



*A long time ago in the rolling hills, there lived a man called Johnny Appleseed. Johnny Appleseed did not have a home, but instead wandered across the country from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania to Ohio to Indiana to Illinois. Wander means to travel from place to place without knowing exactly where you are going next.*



# Johnny Appleseed



# Johnny Appleseed



Johnny wasn't born with the name Johnny Appleseed, but he got that name as he moved from one small town to the next. Listen to hear how Johnny got that name and why he became a hero to many people. A **hero** is a brave person.

# Johnny Appleseed



Johnny was born in Massachusetts with the name John Chapman. When Johnny grew up, he decided to travel across the country. People could tell from Johnny's clothing that he was really very poor. His clothes were shabby, and he walked around barefoot—even in the winter.



# Johnny Appleseed



When something is shabby, it is very old and torn. To walk around barefoot means to walk around wearing nothing on your feet. His hat was so threadbare that you could see his hair beneath it. But despite his loneliness and poverty, Johnny had a brave heart. Even though he was usually alone and very poor, he was happy and brave.



# Johnny Appleseed



*He believed in the power of love. He loved all the people and all the animals he met along the way. In fact, Johnny often thought to himself that he loved all the people and all the animals in the world even though he had never met them.*

# Johnny Appleseed



The people Johnny met along the way enjoyed his company. They would often invite him to share in a simple meal. Johnny would accept the invitation with a smile. After the meal he would take out the one possession he owned that was worth anything--his violin. Then he would play for the people who had been kind to him.

# Johnny Appleseed



*Sometimes his music was happy, and sometimes it was sad. People loved to hear Johnny play. Whether his music was happy or sad, they said it soothed their soul and made them feel happier.*



# Johnny Appleseed



*Johnny lived most of his adult life this way. He wandered from place to place and survived as best he could. You might think that Johnny left no mark upon the land, or no great memory of his existence once he had passed away. This means that you might think Johnny was not an important person and that people might forget about him.*

# Johnny Appleseed



*After all, how could he have, as he was just a poor old man who wandered from place to place? But Johnny did indeed leave something of himself behind: something quite extraordinary or amazing and something that would give him the name Johnny Appleseed.*

# Johnny Appleseed



You see, as he traveled across the country from town to town, and from farm to farm, he collected apple seeds. The apple seeds came from the apples kind strangers gave him to eat along the way. Johnny saved the seeds and planted them in the rich earth. He planted them here, there and everywhere.



# Johnny Appleseed



What happens when you plant seeds?  
When wintertime came, and the earth was frozen, he saved the seeds in his pockets as if they were precious diamonds. Then, when springtime came again, he planted the seeds as he moved from place to place.

# Johnny Appleseed



Johnny hoped that one day orchards, or places where fruit trees grow, would **eventually** grow up from the rich soil and feed all the people and animals he loved so much.

When something happens eventually, it does not happen quickly, but happens over some time has passed.

# Johnny Appleseed



*Johnny did this until his tired old body could plant no more.*

*However, what Johnny hoped for came to pass. The apple seeds took root and young saplings began to grow. As the years went by, beautiful apple trees dotted the landscape. Apple orchards appeared like an oasis on the wide-open prairies.*



# Johnny Appleseed



*An oasis is a nice and comfortable place to be. The apple trees made the land look very good and pleasant to live in.*

*Eventually, more and more people began to move West. Wagons full of hopeful people rolled across the land. Later, the railroad brought even more hopeful people. All of these people were searching for new places to make a home.*

# Johnny Appleseed



*Incredibly, many people chose to build their homes near the apple trees and orchards that Johnny had planted. The sight of the trees gave people hopes of a fruitful and prosperous future. Prosperous means successful. Farm houses, and then towns, were built near the trees that Johnny had planted. He became a hero to all those who loved the apple trees as much as Johnny did.*

# Johnny Appleseed



*They began to call John Chapman Johnny Appleseed.*

*Why might people call Johnny a hero?  
How did planting apple seeds help people?*



# Johnny Appleseed



As the years went by, people harvested the apples from the trees Johnny had planted, and stored them away for the winter months. They made pies, apple butter, and jam. Children played beneath the branches of the apple trees or sat in the cooling shade. These things happened because Johnny Appleseed had cared about all the people of the world, whether he knew them or not.

# Johnny Appleseed

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*Who is the main character in this story?*

# Johnny Appleseed

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*Where did Johnny Appleseed get apple seeds for planting?*



# Johnny Appleseed

*Comprehension Questions:*

***Inferential***

*How did John Chapman get the nickname Johnny Appleseed?*

# Johnny Appleseed

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*What was the beginning of the life cycle of the trees planted by Johnny Appleseed?*

# Johnny Appleseed

*Comprehension Questions:*

***Inferential***

*Why did people decide to build their homes near the apple trees that Johnny had planted?*



# Johnny Appleseed

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Evaluative**



*How are cherries and their seeds the same as or different from apples and their seeds?*

# Think. Pair. Share.



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

# Think. Pair. Share.

**Evaluative:**



*How did the apple seeds that Johnny planted help people?*



# **Word Work**

*Explicit Vocabulary Instruction*

# Johnny Appleseed

*In the read aloud you heard, “Listen to hear how Johnny got his name and why he became a **hero** to many people.”*

*Say the word **hero** with me.  
Whisper **hero** to the ceiling.  
Whisper **hero** to your neighbor.  
Let's clap it out.*

# Johnny Appleseed

A **hero** is a brave person who has done important things.

A person may be considered a **hero** to a small group of people like your family, or to a larger group of people such as the people in our country or the people around the world. George Washington is considered a hero because he was very brave and became our first president.



# Johnny Appleseed

*Think about some of the people that you know or have heard about that have been very brave and done important things.*

*Try to use the word hero when you tell them.*

*“My \_\_\_\_\_ is a **hero** because...”*

## **Johnny Appleseed**

*What's the word we have been talking  
about?*

*Let's clap it out.*

# Johnny Appleseed

