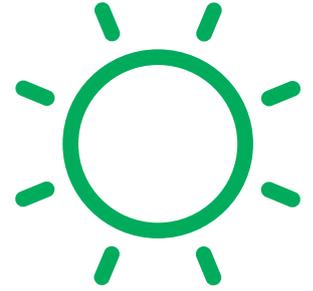


Pre-excursion resource

The Seasons

The Early Years, Level A–D, Foundation – Level 2



Kindergarten – Year 2



The Early Years, Level A–D (Towards Foundation),
 Foundation – Level 2



Students make connections between weather, months and seasons. They discover the impacts of seasonal change during their orchard excursion and explore the orchard activities that are undertaken based on the growing requirements. Students use stem questions to promote higher order thinking to gain a sound understanding of seasons. They make an Apple Season Wheel, using drawings and keywords to enhance their learning.



- Seasons
- Months of the year
- Weather



- Coloured pencils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Worksheet: Apple Season Wheel (1 per student)



1. Introduce the topic of seasons by using Bloom's Taxonomy question stems (see background information). The following question stems promote higher order thinking.

Question stems

- Can you name all the seasons?
- How would you define summer?
- How is summer different to winter?
- How would you recognise autumn?
- Describe what happens when the seasons change?
- What is your favourite season?
- What would you choose out of going to the beach in summer or having a picnic next to a lake in autumn?
- Why do you think the seasons change?
- What would happen if the seasons were always the same?

2. Distribute the Apple Season Wheel worksheet to each student. Starting with January, ask the students to say and point to each month of the year.

Ask the students to think about:

- What month were you born in?
- Do you know what season your birthday is in?
- What type of weather do you often get in the month of your birthday?
- In what month does the school year begin?
- What is your favourite month of the year?

3. Explain that the seasons are very important to farming. The year is divided up into four seasons: summer, autumn, winter and spring. Each of the seasons brings different temperatures and weather patterns – rain, sunshine, frost – sometimes with extreme weather conditions like flood and heatwaves. The weather has huge implications on the success of the apple growing season.

Read out the information on the Seasons in the Orchard (in the background information section) to the students, making reference to the keywords. Ask the students to follow the instructions to complete their Apple Season Wheel.

Once completed, students' work can be displayed around the classroom, in a portfolio or as a gallery walk in a school corridor for their peers and other year levels to enjoy.

Suggestions for assessment

Student's ability to work independently, follow instructions and use fine motor skills to cut, glue and colour to complete the Apple Season Wheel.



Curriculum links

Towards Foundation – Level C Geography

Connection of weather to seasons (VCGGK039).

Towards Foundation – Level D Geography

Ways weather and seasons are described (VCGGK053).

Foundation – Level 2 Critical and Creative Thinking

Identify, describe and use different kinds of question stems to gather information and ideas. Construct questions with different stems (what, how, when and why) to match a given range of answers, for example about the seasons (VCCCTQ001).

Background information

Australia produces a large range of apples as our climate is well suited to growing the fruit. We enjoy apples year-round because different varieties are harvested at different times throughout the year.

The Southern Hemisphere harvest season begins in January, with great anticipation around early season apple varieties such as Smitten®, which is sold until April, while the popular JAZZ™ enjoys a longer season from March through to November.

There are now also many newer apple varieties emerging that taste and look great, including envy™ and yello®. Australia has a proud history of cultivating new apple varieties and Montague is dedicated to bringing new varieties to the industry with new generation apples that offer outstanding flavours and uses.

Consumers can enjoy locally grown varieties all year round thanks to cold storage technology which allows packhouses and retailers to store fruit in optimum condition.

The seasons in the orchard

SPRING

Spring is an exciting time in the orchard when new life begins.

Bees are an essential part of the environment and food production system. Without bees, the world would not be able to grow fruit naturally. Bees fly from flower to flower to enhance pollination.

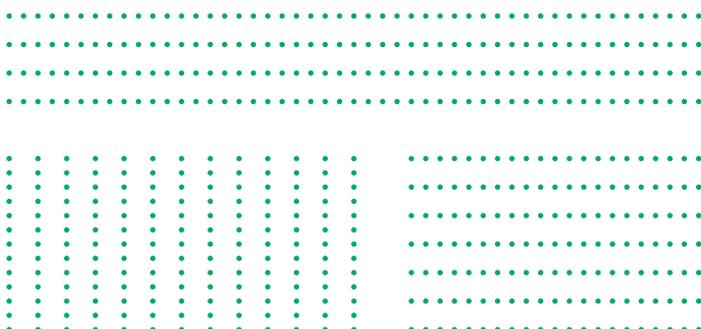
The orchard team thins the trees by reducing the number of branches on the tree to enable the tree to have enough nutrition for the buds on the trees to turn into fruit. Thinning allows more sunshine to reach the fruit as the tree grows throughout spring and summer.

Grafting and fertilising is also performed to ensure the tree is ready for summer. Natural minerals such as magnesium are often used to enhance the trees' growth.

SUMMER

Summer is the fruit growing period. Water is a critical element to fruit production and to gain fruit size. Summer pruning aids the tree growth and the orchard team monitors the estimated crop size very closely.

Using netting to protect the apples from hail, birds and wind damage is vital during summer. Birds enjoy fruit and will often find ways through the netting to eat the fruit, so constant maintenance is required. Reflective sheets are placed under the trees, down each inter row to reflect the sun for even colour. This acts as a mirror for the fruit.



AUTUMN

Montague celebrates harvest each year and dedicates the entire season to picking the fruit. Every single apple and stone fruit is hand picked which ensures the fruit reaches you in optimum condition. Every person who picks the fruit in the orchard follows strict hygiene practices and the fruit is washed a number of times before being packed into boxes for green grocers, markets and supermarkets.

Montague packs the fruit for its own orchards and also packs fruit for a number of growers across Victoria and New South Wales. In Queensland, Montague has a dedicated packaging and market floor facility to support wholesale trading. Montague manages the direct-to-customer distribution centres, transport, sales and marketing.

WINTER

Winter is spent preparing for spring and keeping fruit in cold storage so it can be enjoyed all year round.

Reference: www.aussieapples.com.au/about/



Bloom's Taxonomy

Bloom's Taxonomy provides a learning framework that moves a student from lower-order thinking to higher-order thinking. The six levels are remembering, understanding, applying, analysing, evaluating and creating.

BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

Question Stems

Bloom's Taxonomy question stems is a tool for educators that will help them create and scaffold questions to meet the needs of their students. Question stems are used to generate questions that respond to each level in the taxonomy.

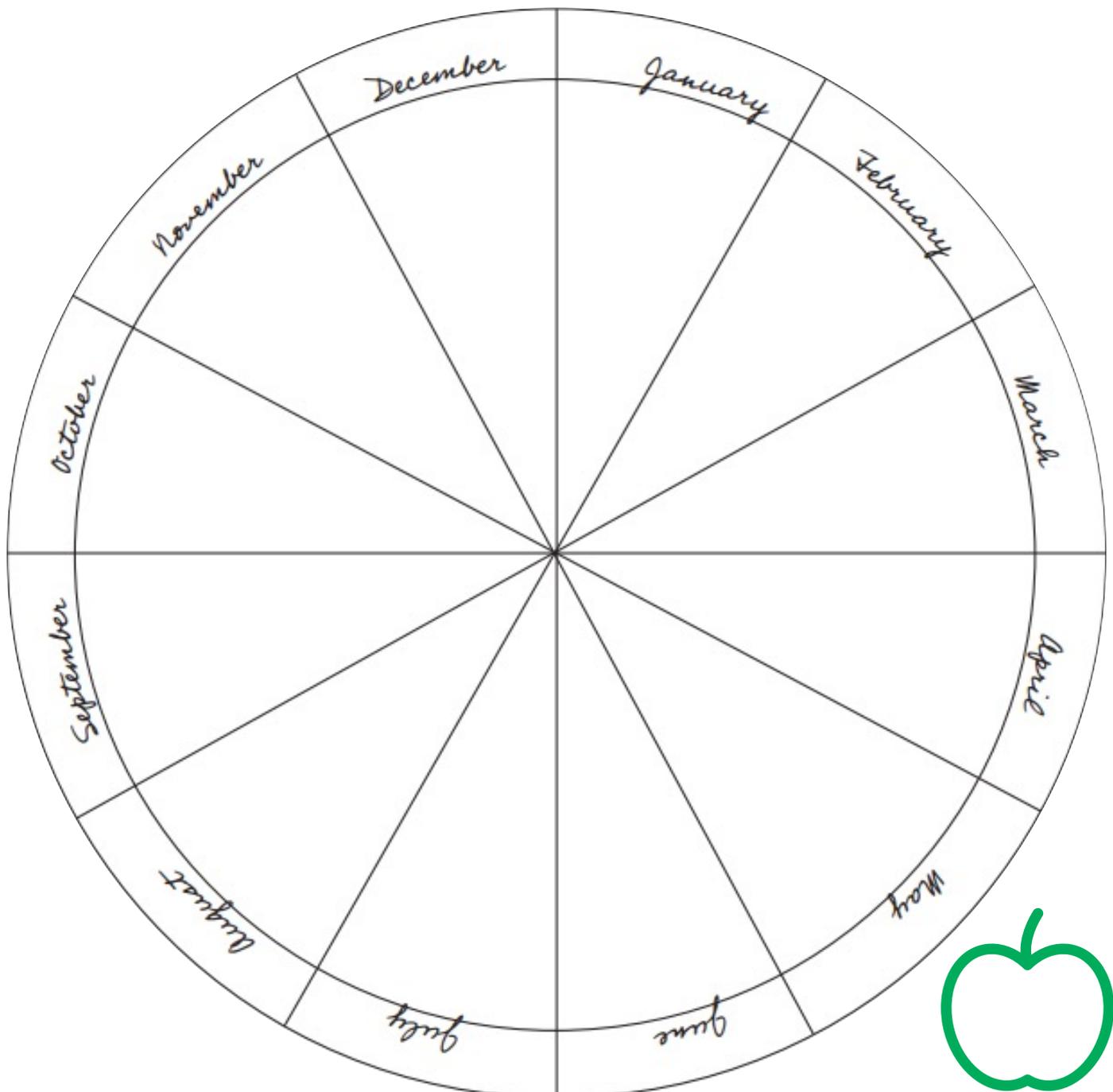
<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">REMEMBER</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you name all the ...? Describe what happens when ...? How is (are) ...? How would you define ...? How would you identify ...? How would you outline ...? How would you recognise...? List the ... in order. 	<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">UNDERSTAND</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you clarify...? Can you illustrate ...? Condense this paragraph. Contrast ... Elaborate on ... Explain why ... Give an example How can you describe
<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">APPLY</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you group by characteristics such as ...? Do you know of another instance where ...? Draw a story map Explain why a character acted in the way that he did From the information given, develop instructions about ...? 	<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">ANALYSE</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the pros and cons of ... How can you classify ... according to ...? How can you sort the different parts...? How is ... connected to ...? How is ... similar to ...? How would you categorise...? How would you explain ?
<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">EVALUATE</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you feel if ...? How would you grade ...? How would you have handled...? Is there a better solution to...? Judge the value of ... Rank the importance of ... Rate the ... What are the alternatives? What are the consequences of...? 	<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">CREATE</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you develop a proposal which would...? Can you see a solution to ...? Devise a way to ... How would you elaborate on the reason ...? How would you generate a plan to ...? How would you improve ...?

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Worksheet: Apple Season Wheel

Using the keywords, make your own Apple Season Wheel by following these instructions:

- Cut out the words summer, autumn, winter and spring and glue them to your season wheel in the correct position. Remember each season has three months.
- Cut out each of the keywords and glue them in the correct season.
- Draw your own pictures to reflect the different seasons.
- Add the keywords from the tasks that are carried out at the orchard and glue them in the correct season.



KEYWORDS

Seasons

SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER	SPRING
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Months of the year

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER

Orchard tasks in each season

SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER	SPRING
HOT WEATHER	MILD TO COOL WEATHER	COLD WEATHER	WARM WEATHER
WATERING	APPLE HARVEST	REVIEWING THE SEASON	BEEES
PRUNING	HAND PICKED FRUIT	COOL STORAGE FOR FRUIT	POLLINATION
SUNSHINE	WASHING FRUIT IN WATER	RAIN	FLOWERS
PEAK FRUIT GROWING	PACKING FRUIT	FOOTBALL	TREE THINNING
HOLIDAYS	CLOUDS	WIND	BABY BIRDS
PROTECTING FRUIT	TRANSPORTING FRUIT	SETTING NEW GOALS	BABY ANIMALS
GOING TO THE BEACH	SELLING FRUIT	FIREPLACE	NATURE WALKS
REFLECTIVE SHEETS	LEAVES FALLING FROM THE TREES	MAKING IMPROVEMENTS FOR NEXT SEASON	GRAFTING
SUNGLASSES, HATS, SUNSCREEN	JEANS, T-SHIRTS, JUMPER	JACKETS, GLOVES, BEANIES	FERTILISING