

Activity Overview: Students will learn about the botanical and cultural history of apples including apple cider production in the U.S. and heirloom apple varieties from Maine. Students will learn about the process of pressing cider as they make some of their own. This guided program is approximately 60 minutes in length.

Maximum Number of participants/program: 25 students

Introduction: This activity is designed to introduce students to the deep historical and cultural traditions of growing apples and producing apple cider in our country and abroad. We will also discuss the anatomy and plant classification of apples and learn about Maine's own heirloom apples. By the end of this informal educational program, students will be familiar with an apple's botanical identity, production history, and the process of producing apple cider from an old-fashioned cider press.

Note: This activity is offered only in September and October.

Before the activity: When your group arrives at the Gardens, you will go to your designated home base to receive admission stickers, drop off backpacks, use the restrooms, and meet your Education staff team member who will lead this activity.

Things to know:

- This activity is designed for students grades preK-6 to explore the heritage of apples in the U.S. and around the world.
- Students will use an old-fashioned cider press to make apple cider.
- Students will learn some fun facts about apples and hear the legend of Johnny Appleseed.
- Students will explore the question: "What is an apple?" in terms of its botanical nature.

