

# APPLE SENSORY BINS

PRINTABLE PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES  
MATH • LITERACY • SCIENCE



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Lavinia

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**ILLUSTRATIONS** Kari Bolt, Little Red, Dancing Crayon Designs, Whimsy Clips, PartyHead Graphics, Ramona Majdis, Zip-a-Dee-doo-dah-Designs, Bunny on a Cloud, Krista Wallden - Creative Clips, Creating4 the Classroom, Rainbow Sprinkle Studio - Sasha Mitten, First Class Clipart, ClipArtisan, Muggy Studio

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**PRINTING TIP** This resource is designed for US Letter paper. Print at Actual Size or 100% to preserve the intended card and mat dimensions. If printing on another paper size, select Fit or Shrink to Printable Area and use the same scaling setting for all related pages.

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# What's Included

This resource includes five hands-on activities that support early literacy, math, science, fine motor development, and purposeful sensory play. Use the activities during centers, small groups, morning tubs, intervention, or homeschool learning.

## APPLE PIE RECIPES

Children choose a recipe card, count the ingredients, and place the correct quantities of apples and cinnamon sticks onto the apple pie mat.

**Skills:** Counting • Number recognition • One-to-one correspondence • Following visual directions • Fine motor skills

## APPLE ORCHARD LETTER MATCH

Children find and match apple cards to the corresponding letters on the apple orchard mats. Activities include identical letter matching, uppercase and lowercase letter matching, and beginning sound matching.

**Skills:** Letter recognition • Uppercase and lowercase matching • Beginning sounds • Vocabulary • Visual discrimination

## APPLE HARVEST NUMBER SORT

Children identify the quantity represented on each apple card and match it to the correctly numbered apple basket.

**Skills:** Numerals and quantities 0–10 • Subitizing • Number representations • Counting • One-to-one correspondence

## APPLE SORTING

Children sort apples by color and size, classify apples using two attributes, and copy or continue simple patterns.

**Skills:** Color recognition • Size comparison • Sorting • Classification • Patterns • Logical thinking

## APPLE TREE LIFE CYCLE

Children match and sequence the stages of an apple tree's life cycle from seed to fruiting tree.

**Skills:** Life-cycle sequencing • Science vocabulary • Ordinal language • Observation • Oral language

**Recommended for:** Preschool • Pre-K • Transitional Kindergarten • Homeschool Preschool

# Sensory Bin Setup & Safety

Sensory bins provide engaging opportunities for hands-on learning, but all materials should be selected and used with the needs of your learners in mind.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Print the required pages on cardstock.
- Cut out the activity pieces and laminate them for durability, if desired.
- Choose a shallow tray or sensory bin that allows children to reach the materials comfortably.
- Add a sensory filler appropriate for your learners.
- Place the printable pieces throughout the filler. Some pieces can remain partly visible to encourage searching and discovery.
- Add child-safe tweezers, tongs or scoops when appropriate.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

- Adult supervision is required at all times.
- These activities include small loose parts that may present a choking hazard.
- Not intended for children under 3 years of age.
- Do not use with children who mouth classroom materials.
- Check all materials for allergies and sensory sensitivities before use.
- Choose fillers and tools that are appropriate for the age, abilities and needs of your learners.
- Inspect the materials before each use and remove any damaged pieces.
- The supervising adult is responsible for determining whether each material is suitable for the children using it.

## CHOOSING A FILLER

Possible fillers include pom-poms, shredded paper, dry pasta, cereal, oats or other classroom-safe materials. Consider the age of your learners, allergies, sensory preferences and classroom policies when selecting a filler.

Sensory fillers, containers, tools and loose parts are not included with this printable resource.

## STORAGE AND CARE

- Store each activity in a separate labeled bag or container.
- Keep all printable pieces and teacher directions together.
- Count the pieces before and after use.
- Wipe laminated pieces clean with a slightly damp cloth.
- Allow all materials to dry completely before storing them.
- Replace any pieces that become damaged, torn or difficult to clean.

Happy Teaching!

# STORAGE LABELS



## APPLE PIE RECIPES

SENSORY BIN



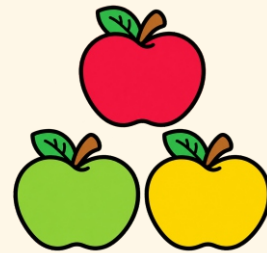
## APPLE ORCHARD

SENSORY BIN



## APPLE HARVEST

SENSORY BIN



## APPLE SORTING

SENSORY BIN

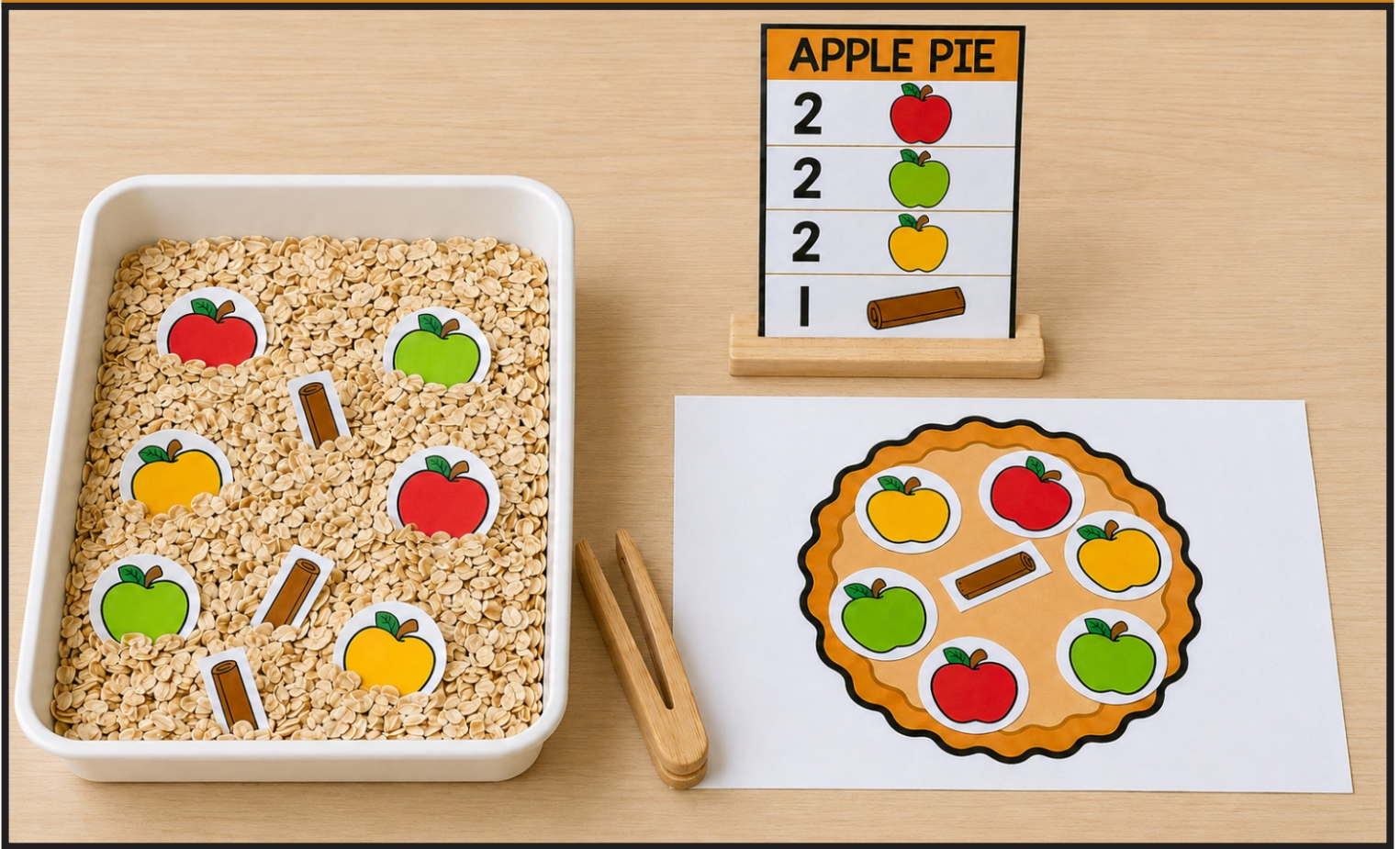


## APPLE TREE LIFE CYCLE

SENSORY BIN

# APPLE PIE RECIPES

## Teacher Directions



### YOU WILL NEED

- Apple pie mat
- Apple and cinnamon stick pieces
- Recipe cards
- Sensory bin and filler
- Optional tweezers or tongs

### HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a recipe card.
2. Find and count each ingredient.
3. Place the ingredients on the pie.
4. Clear the mat and choose another card.

### PREPARATION

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Laminate for durability.
3. Cut apart the cards and pieces.
4. Add the pieces to the sensory bin.

### DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with recipe cards containing smaller quantities. Introduce cards with larger quantities when children are ready to count beyond 10.

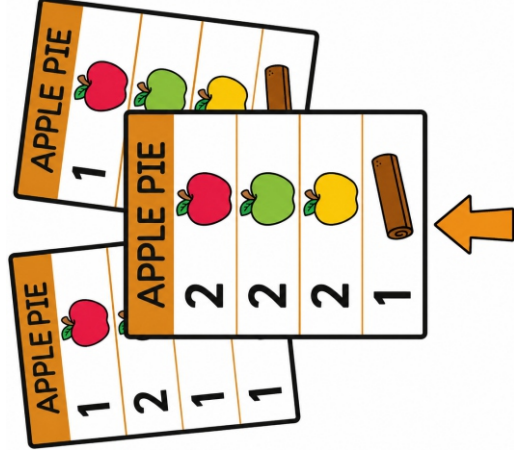
### LEARNING FOCUS

Counting • One to one correspondence • Number recognition  
• Color recognition • Fine motor skills

# MAKE AN APPLE PIE

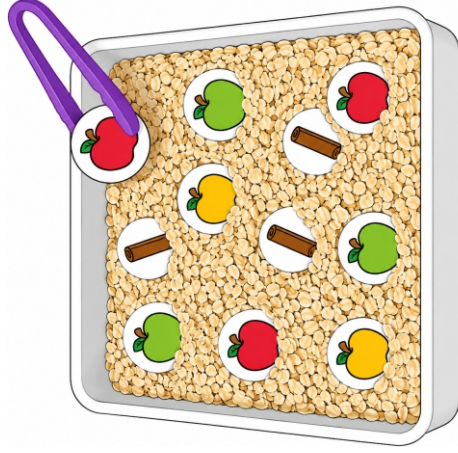
## How To Play

1



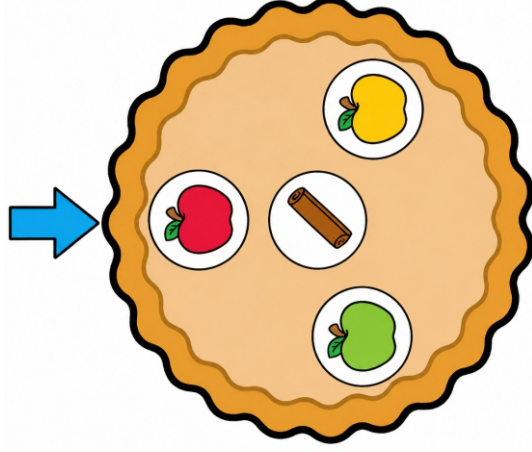
Choose a recipe.

2



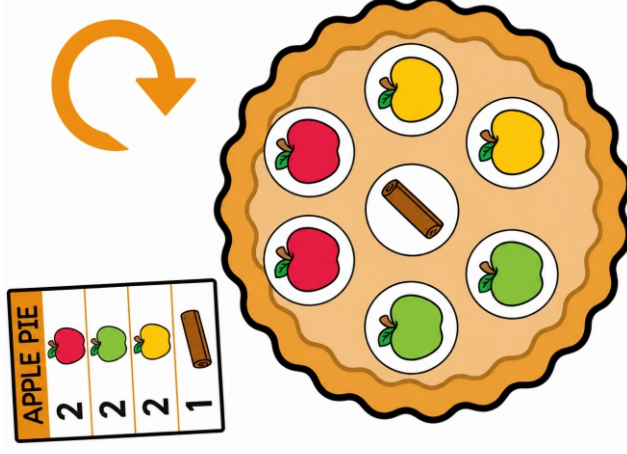
Find and count.

3



Build the pie.

4

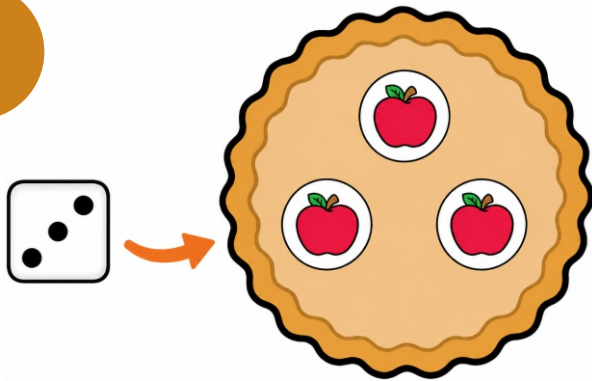


Clear and play again.

# MAKE AN APPLE PIE

## More Ways to Play

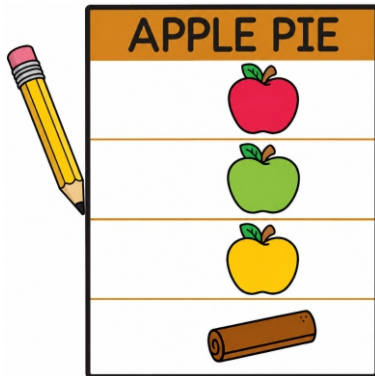
1



### ROLL AND BAKE

1. Choose an ingredient.
2. Roll a die.
3. Find and place that many matching pieces on the pie.
4. Repeat with another ingredient.

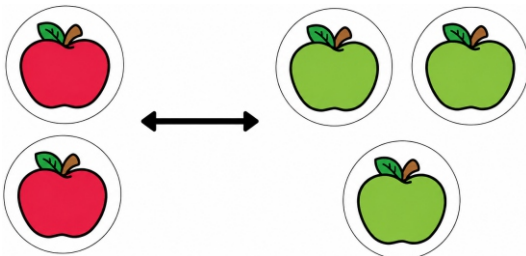
2



### MAKE YOUR OWN RECIPE

1. Write a number beside each ingredient on a blank recipe card.
2. Find and count the correct number of pieces.
3. Place the ingredients on the pie.

3



### COUNT AND COMPARE

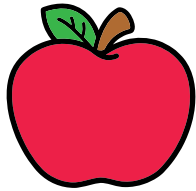
1. Choose two ingredients.
2. Find and count a group of each.
3. Compare the groups. Which has more? Which has fewer? Are they the same?

### TEACHER TIP

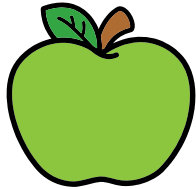
Laminate the blank recipe cards for repeated use with dry-erase markers.

# APPLE PIE

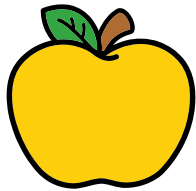
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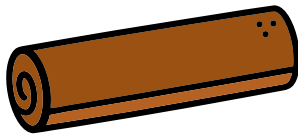
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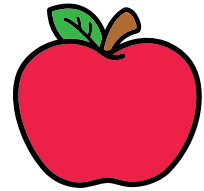
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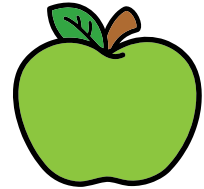
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# APPLE PIE

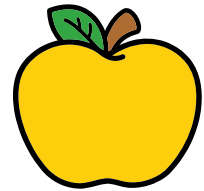
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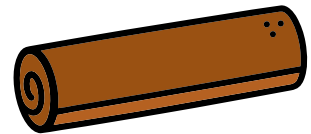
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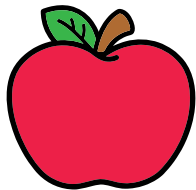
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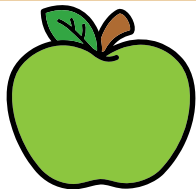
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# APPLE PIE

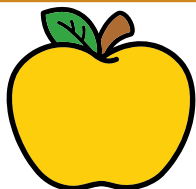
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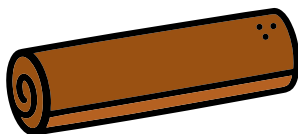
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1



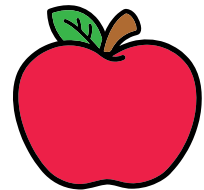
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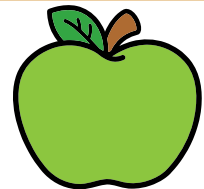
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# APPLE PIE

1



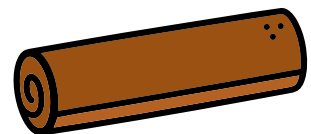
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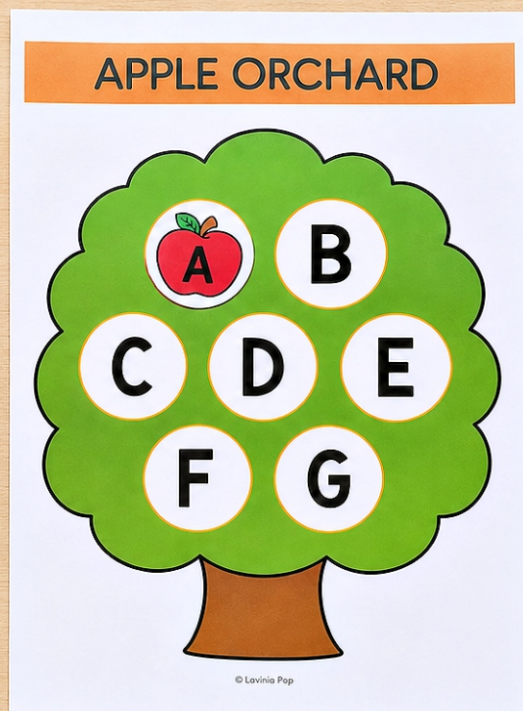
1



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# APPLE ORCHARD LETTER MATCH

## Teacher Directions



## YOU WILL NEED

- Apple Orchard letter mats
- Red, green, and yellow apple pieces
- Beginning Sounds Picture Key
- Sensory bin and filler
- Optional tweezers or tongs

## PREPARATION

1. Print the materials on cardstock.
2. Laminate for durability.
3. Cut apart the apple pieces.
4. Choose a matching set.
5. Add the pieces to the sensory bin.

## HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a letter mat and apple set.
2. Find an apple in the sensory bin.
3. Name the letter or picture.
4. Match it to the correct letter on the tree.
5. Continue until the tree is filled.

## DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with uppercase matching. Progress to lowercase-to-uppercase matching, then introduce the beginning-sound picture cards. Start with one tree and add more as children are ready.

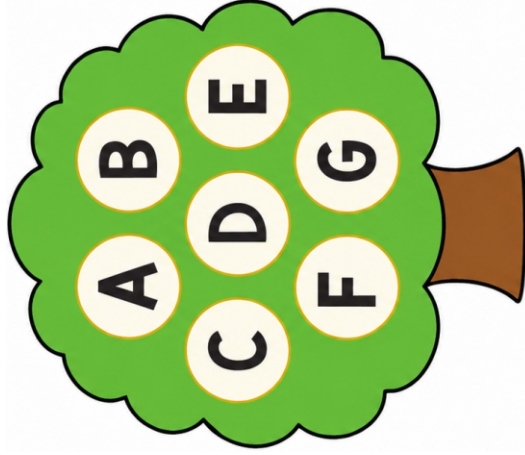
## LEARNING FOCUS

Letter recognition • Uppercase and lowercase matching •  
Beginning sounds • Visual discrimination • Fine motor skills

# APPLE ORCHARD LETTER MATCH

## How To Play

1



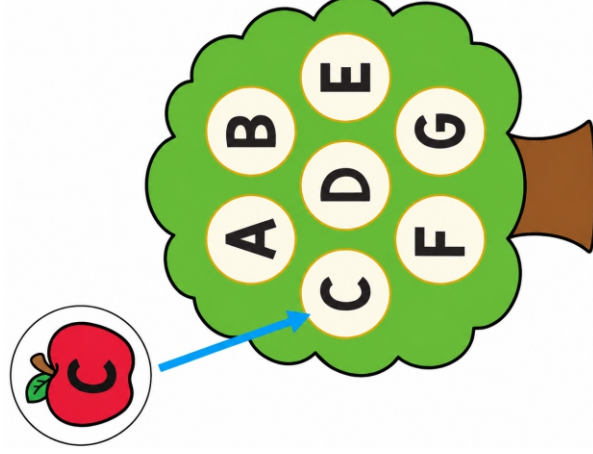
Choose a tree.

2



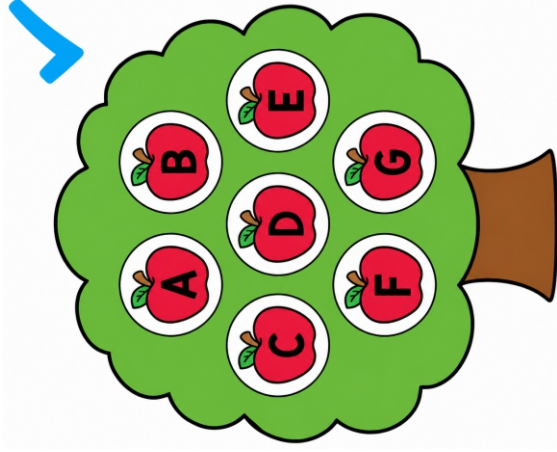
Find an apple.

3



Say its name.  
Match it.

4



Fill the tree.  
Check your  
matches.

# APPLE ORCHARD LETTER MATCH

## 3 Levels of Play

1



### SAME LETTER MATCH

Match each apple to the identical letter.

*Builds letter recognition*

2



### LETTER CASE MATCH

Match uppercase and lower case letters.

*Builds uppercase and lowercase letter recognition*

3



### BEGINNING SOUND MATCH

Name each picture and match it's beginning sound.

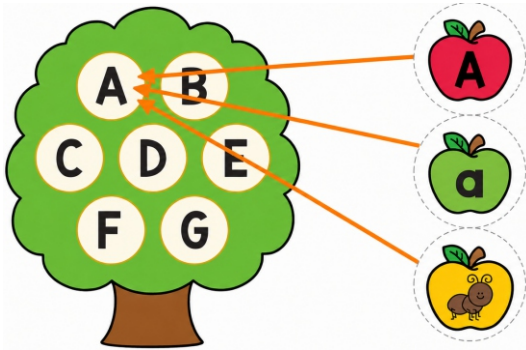
*Develops beginning-sound awareness*

Choose the level that best supports your learners.

# APPLE ORCHARD LETTER MATCH

## More Ways to Play

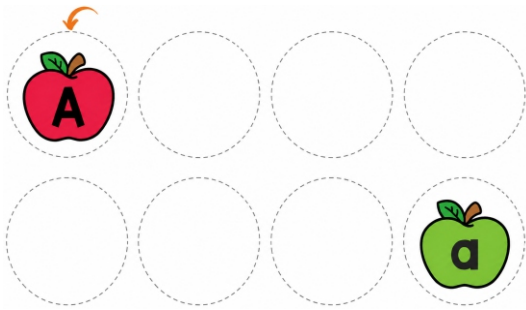
1



### MATCH IT THREE WAYS

1. Choose a target letter on a tree.
2. Find the matching uppercase, lowercase, and picture apples.
3. Name the letter, say its sound, and name the picture.

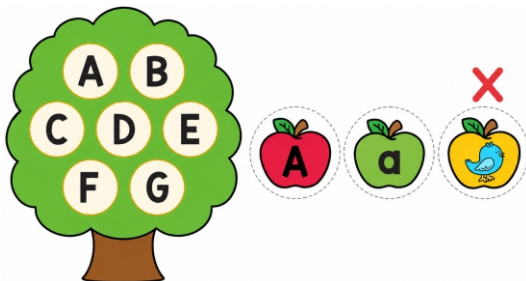
2



### APPLE MEMORY MATCH

1. Choose two matching sets of apple cards.
2. Place the apples facedown.
3. Turn over two apples and name them.
4. Keep the pair if they match.

3



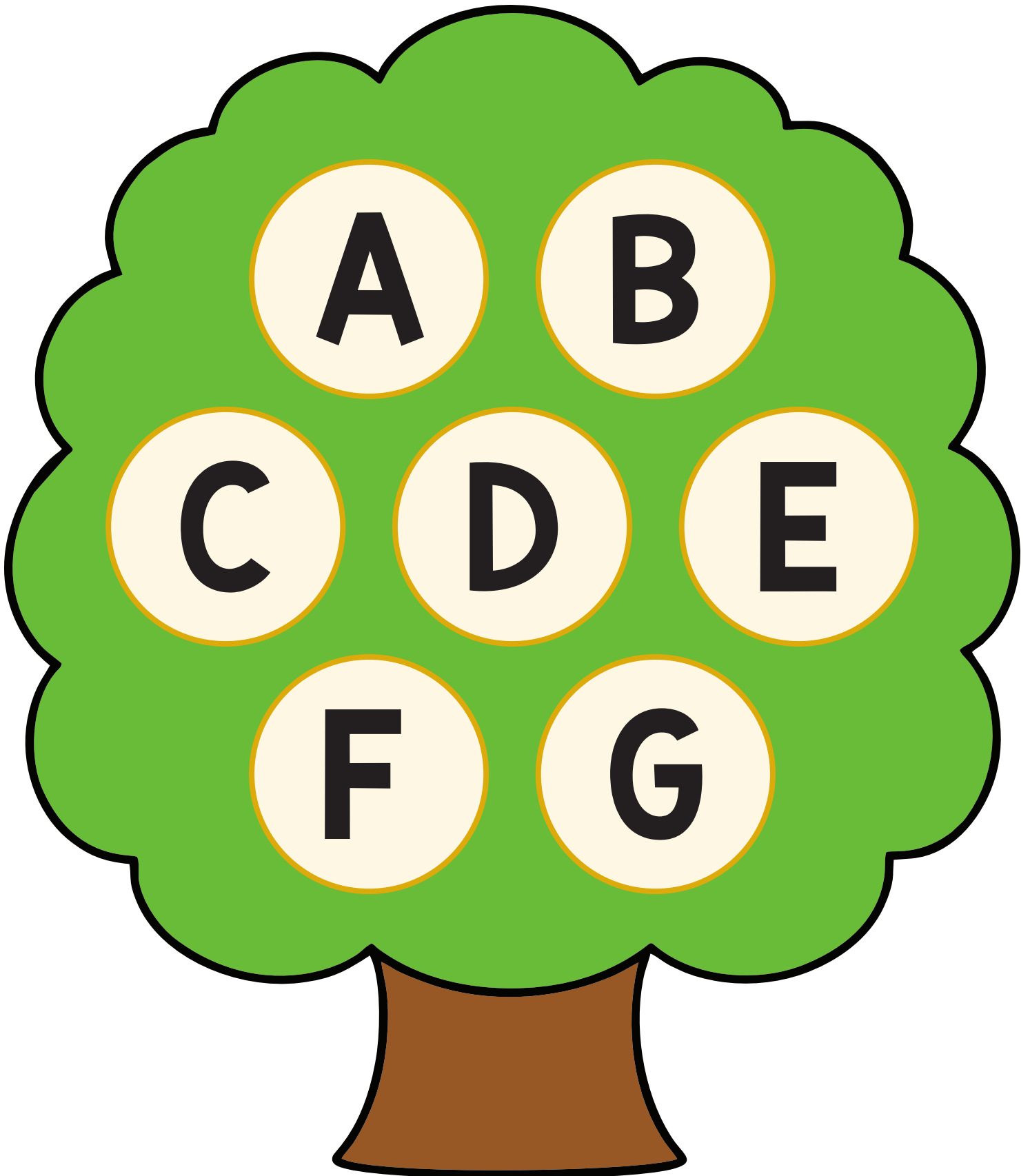
### WHICH APPLE DOESN'T BELONG?

1. Choose a target letter on a tree.
2. Place two matching apples and one that does not match beside the tree.
3. Find and remove the apple that does not belong. Explain why.

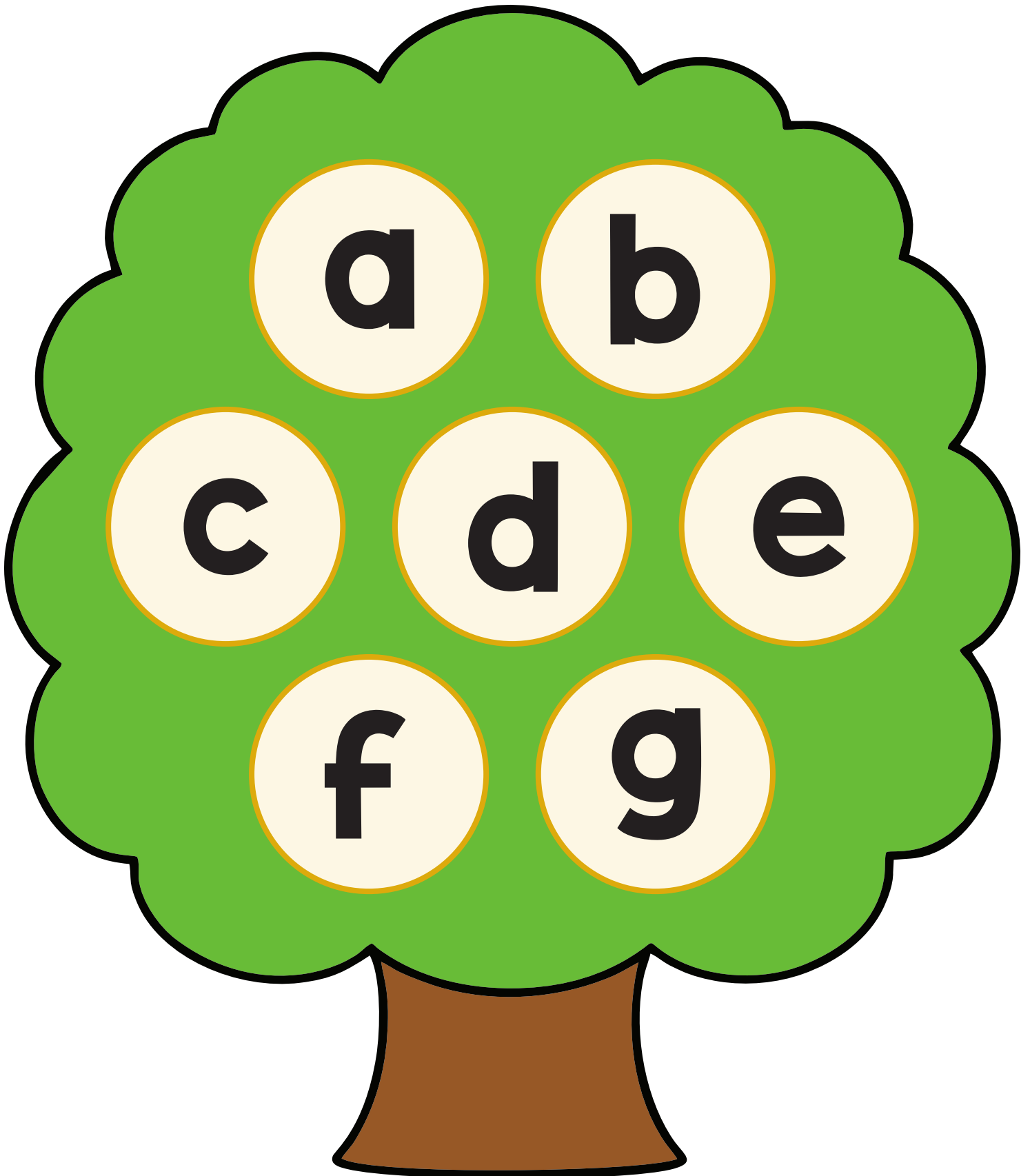
### TEACHER TIP

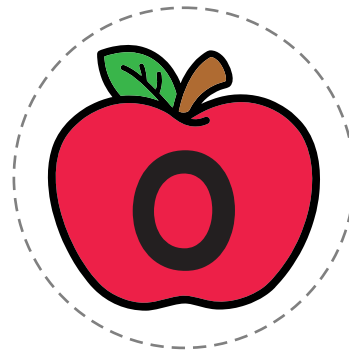
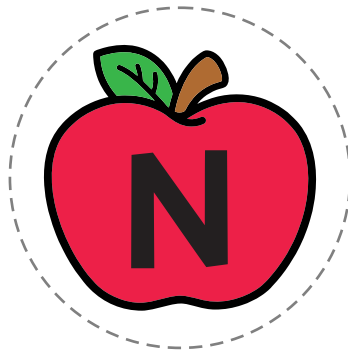
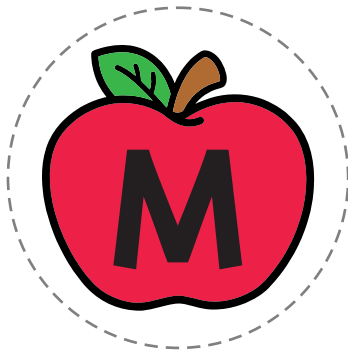
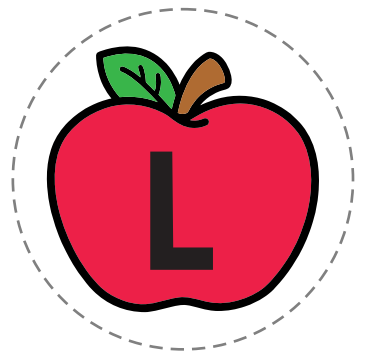
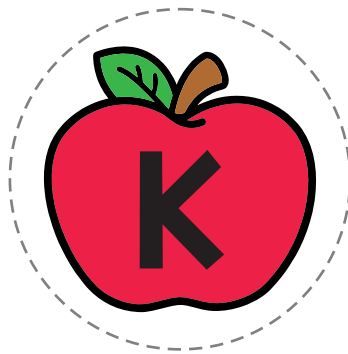
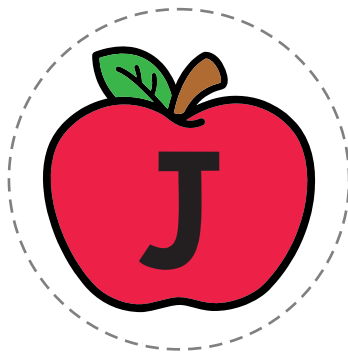
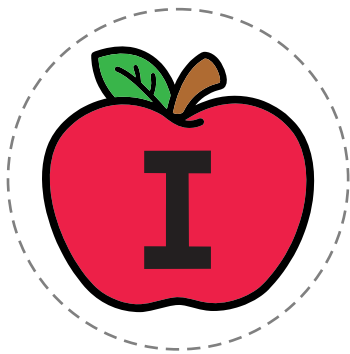
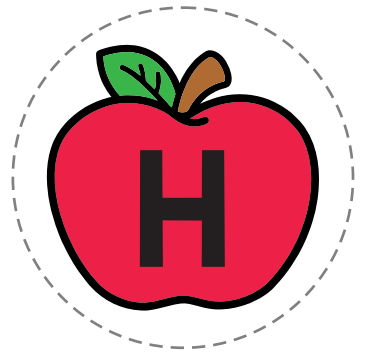
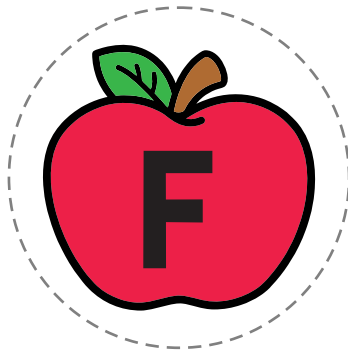
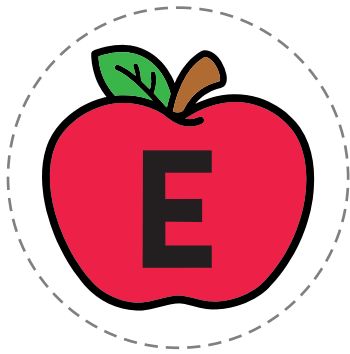
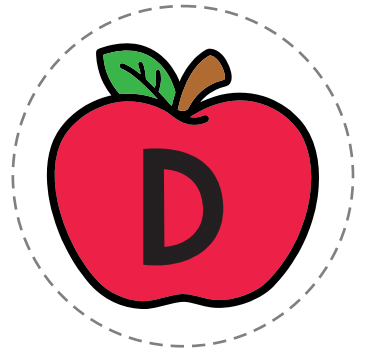
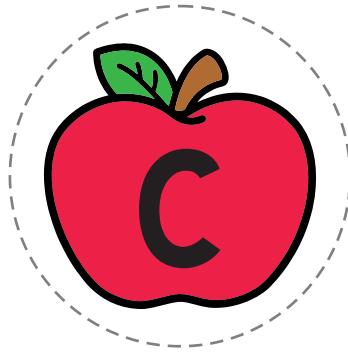
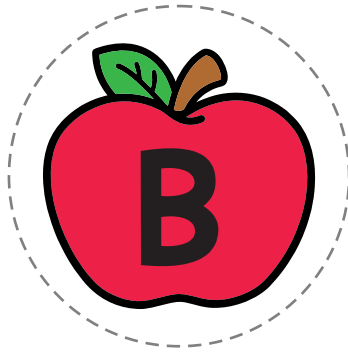
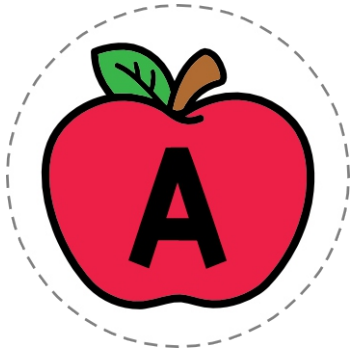
Begin with a small group of previously taught letters. Encourage children to name each letter, say its sound, and explain why the cards match.

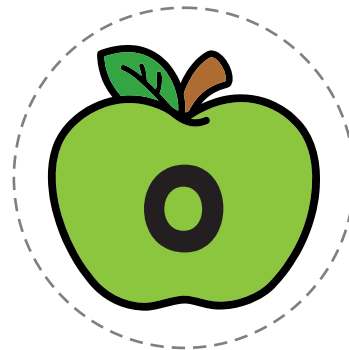
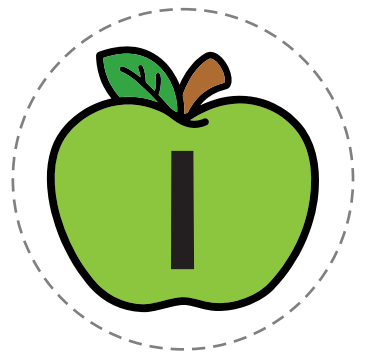
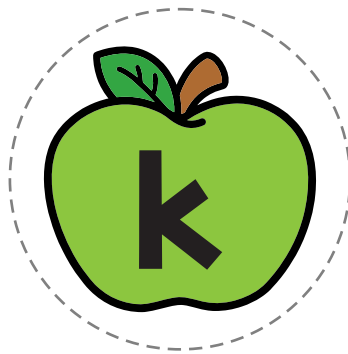
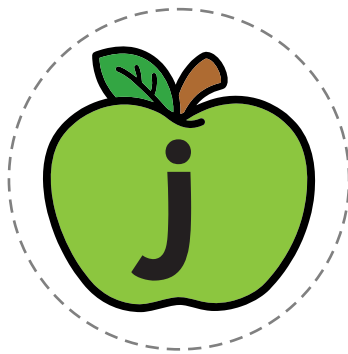
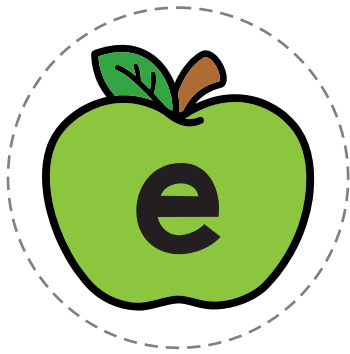
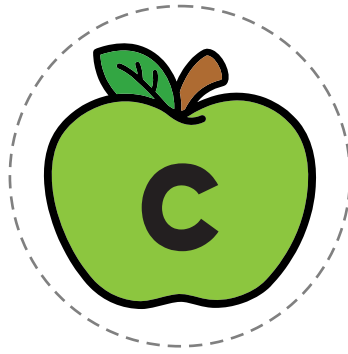
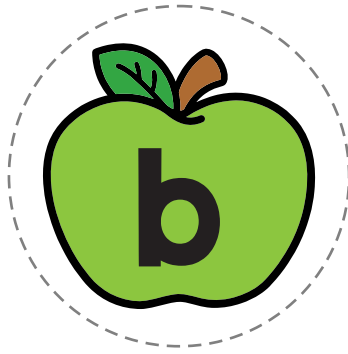
# APPLE ORCHARD

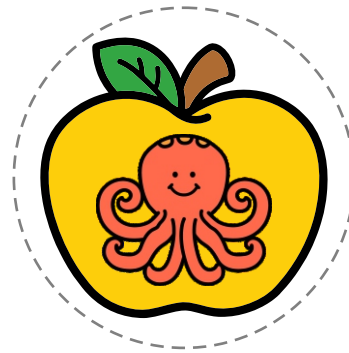
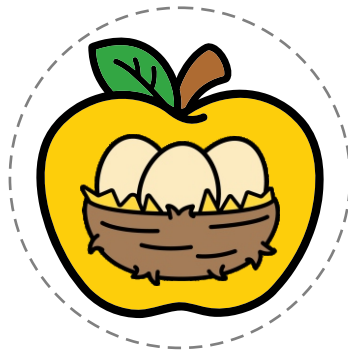
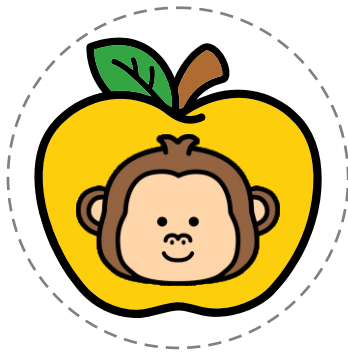
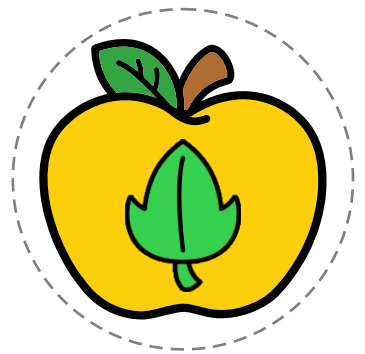
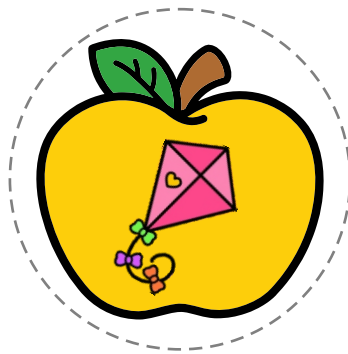
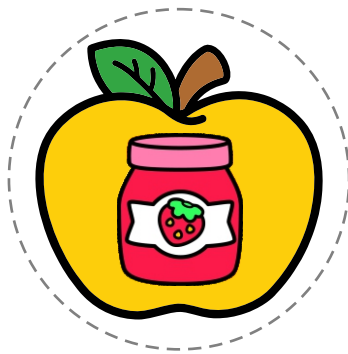
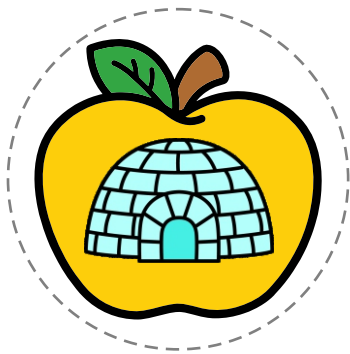
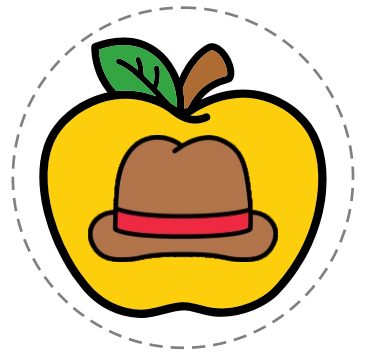
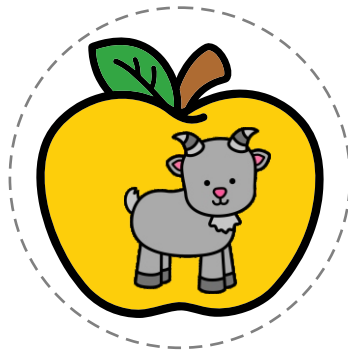
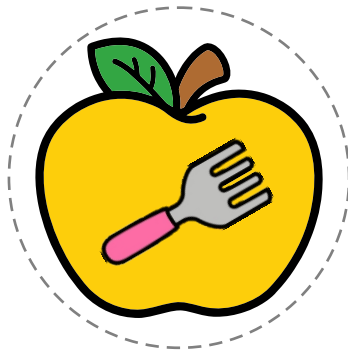
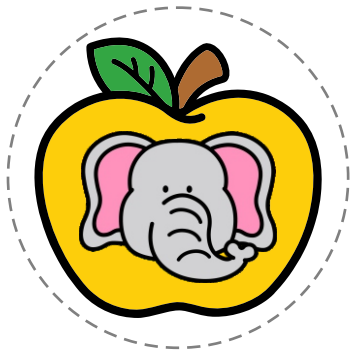
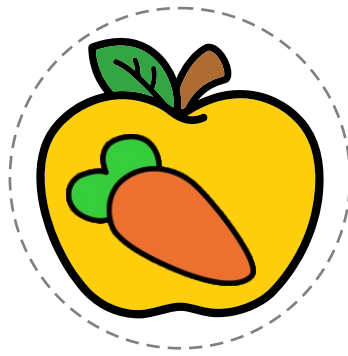
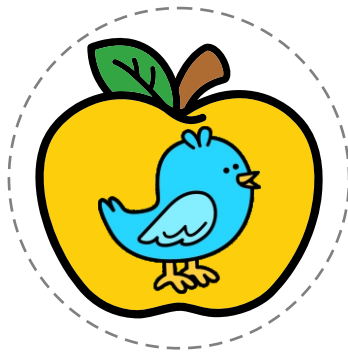
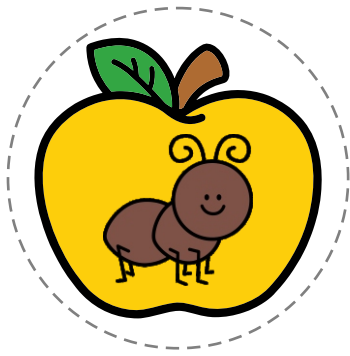


# APPLE ORCHARD









# BEGINNING SOUNDS PICTURE KEY

Aa



ant

Nn



nest

Bb



bird

Oo



octopus

Cc



carrot

Pp



pig

Dd



dog

Qq



queen

Ee



elephant

Rr



rabbit

Ff



fork

Ss



sock

Gg



goat

Tt



turtle

Hh



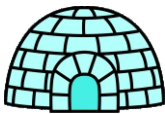
hat

Uu



umbrella

Ii



igloo

Vv



van

Jj



jam

Ww



watermelon

Kk



kite

Xx



x-ray

Ll



leaf

Yy



yarn

Mm



monkey

Zz



zebra

# APPLE HARVEST NUMBER SORT

## Teacher Directions



## YOU WILL NEED

- Apple Harvest number mats
- Seed, ten-frame, and finger apple pieces
- Sensory bin and filler
- Optional tweezers or tongs

## PREPARATION

1. Print the materials on cardstock and laminate.
2. Cut apart the apple pieces.
3. Set out one or both number mats.
4. Add all the seed, ten-frame, and finger apples to the sensory bin.

## HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a number.
2. Find an apple.
3. Count the quantity shown.
4. Place it on the matching basket.
5. Find all three matches, then choose a new number.

## DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with numbers 0–5 using all three representations. Progress to numbers 0–10. Ask children to explain each match.

## LEARNING FOCUS

Number recognition • Counting • Quantity matching  
• Subitizing • Understanding number representations  
• One-to-one correspondence • Fine motor skills

# APPLE HARVEST NUMBER SORT

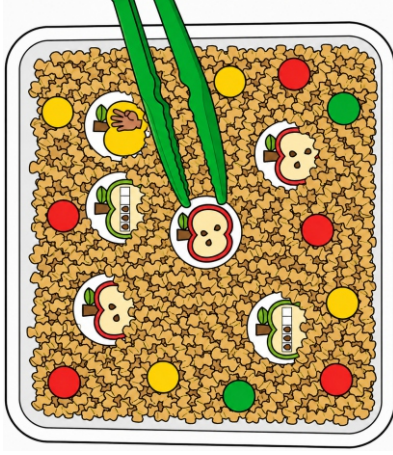
## How To Play

1



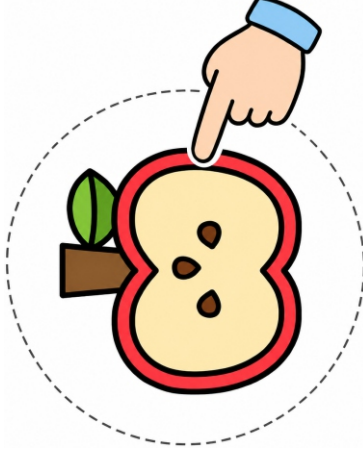
Choose  
a number.

2



Find an apple.

3



Count  
the quantity.

4

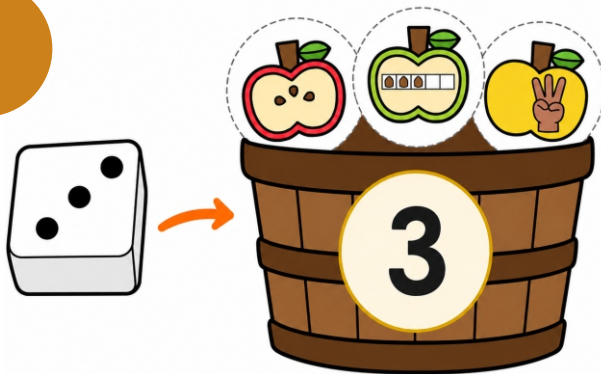


Fill the basket.

# APPLE HARVEST NUMBER MATCH

## More Ways to Play

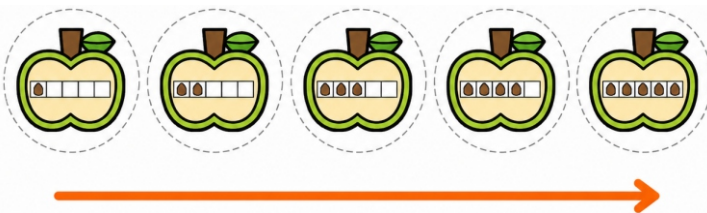
1



### ROLL AND FILL

1. Roll a die.
2. Find the matching numbered basket.
3. Find all three apples showing that quantity.
4. Place the apples on the basket.

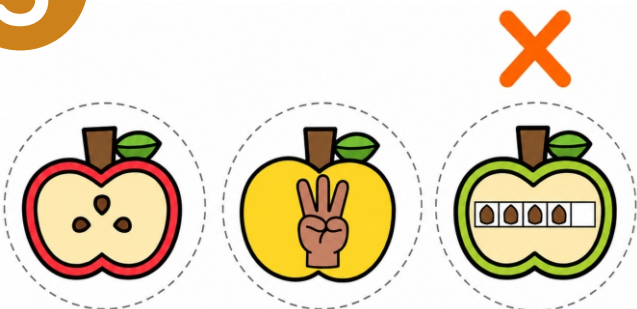
2



### ORDER THE APPLES

1. Choose one apple set: seeds, frames or fingers.
2. Arrange the apples from 0 to 10.
3. Count each quantity to check the order.

3



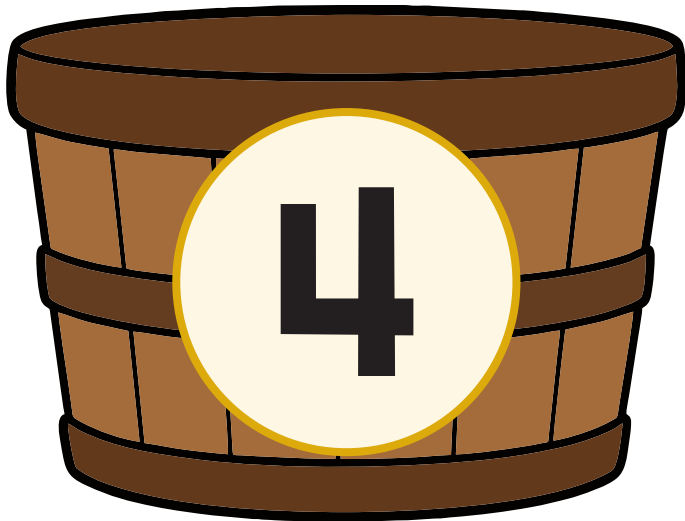
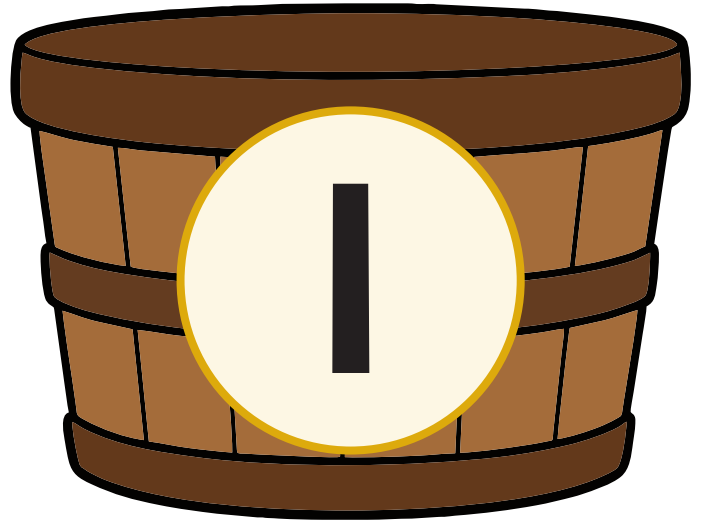
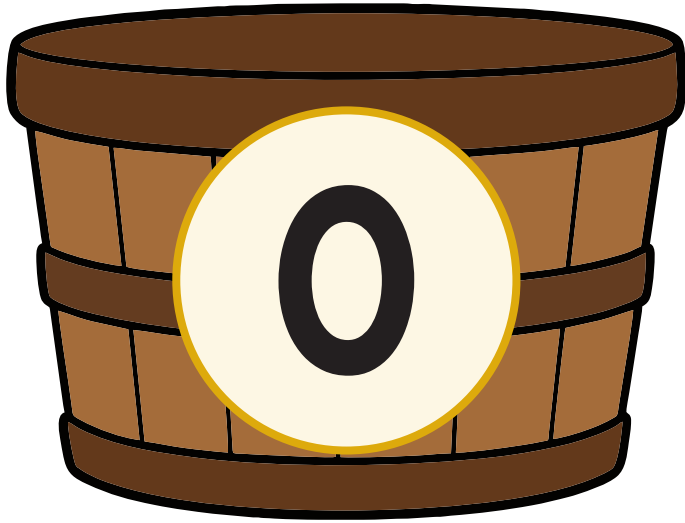
### WHICH ONE DOESN'T BELONG?

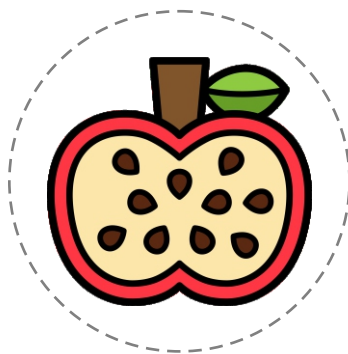
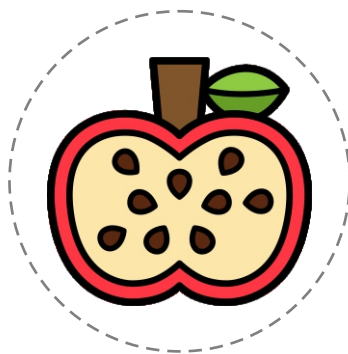
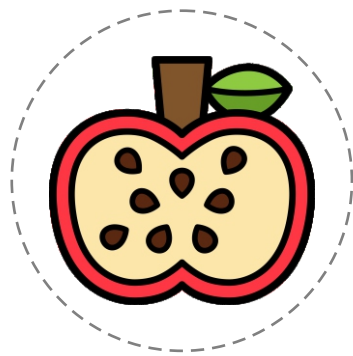
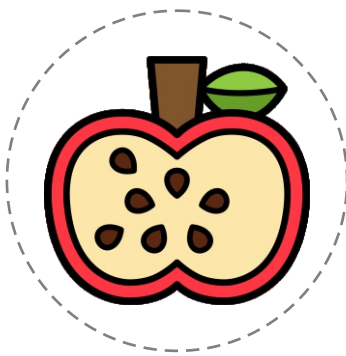
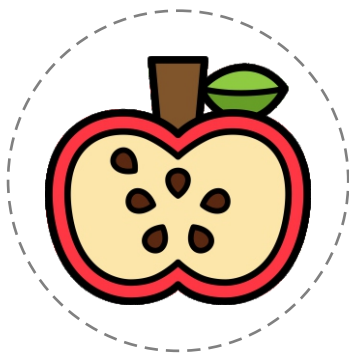
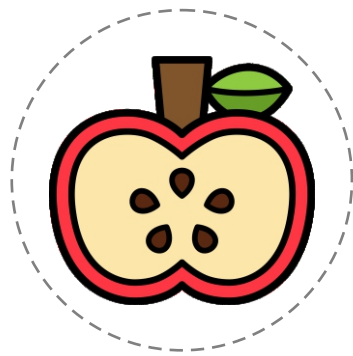
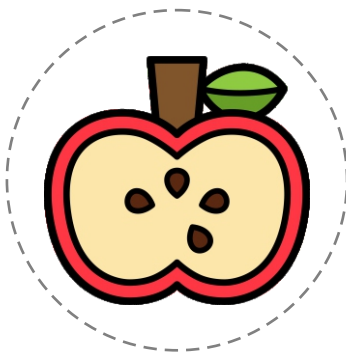
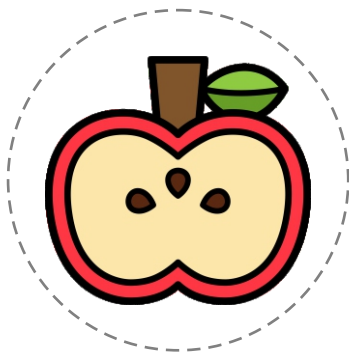
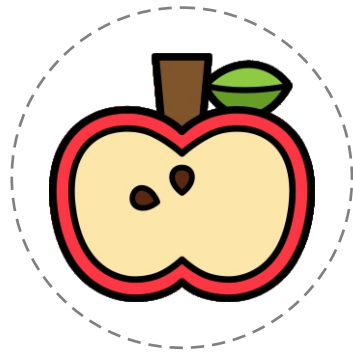
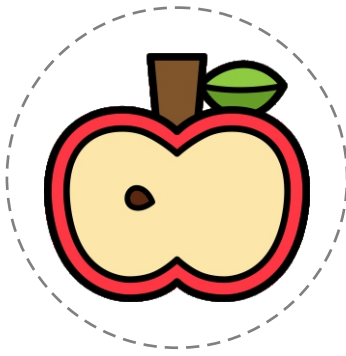
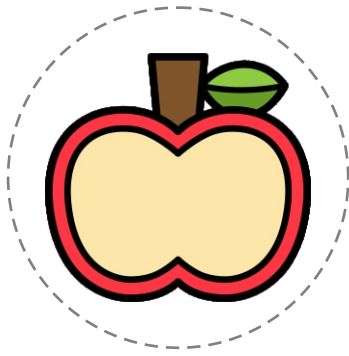
1. Choose two apples showing the same quantity in different ways.
2. Add one apple showing a different quantity.
3. Find the apple that doesn't belong. Explain why.

### TEACHER TIP

Use a standard die for numbers 1–6 or choose a basket number for 0–10. Ask children to explain how they know each quantity matches.

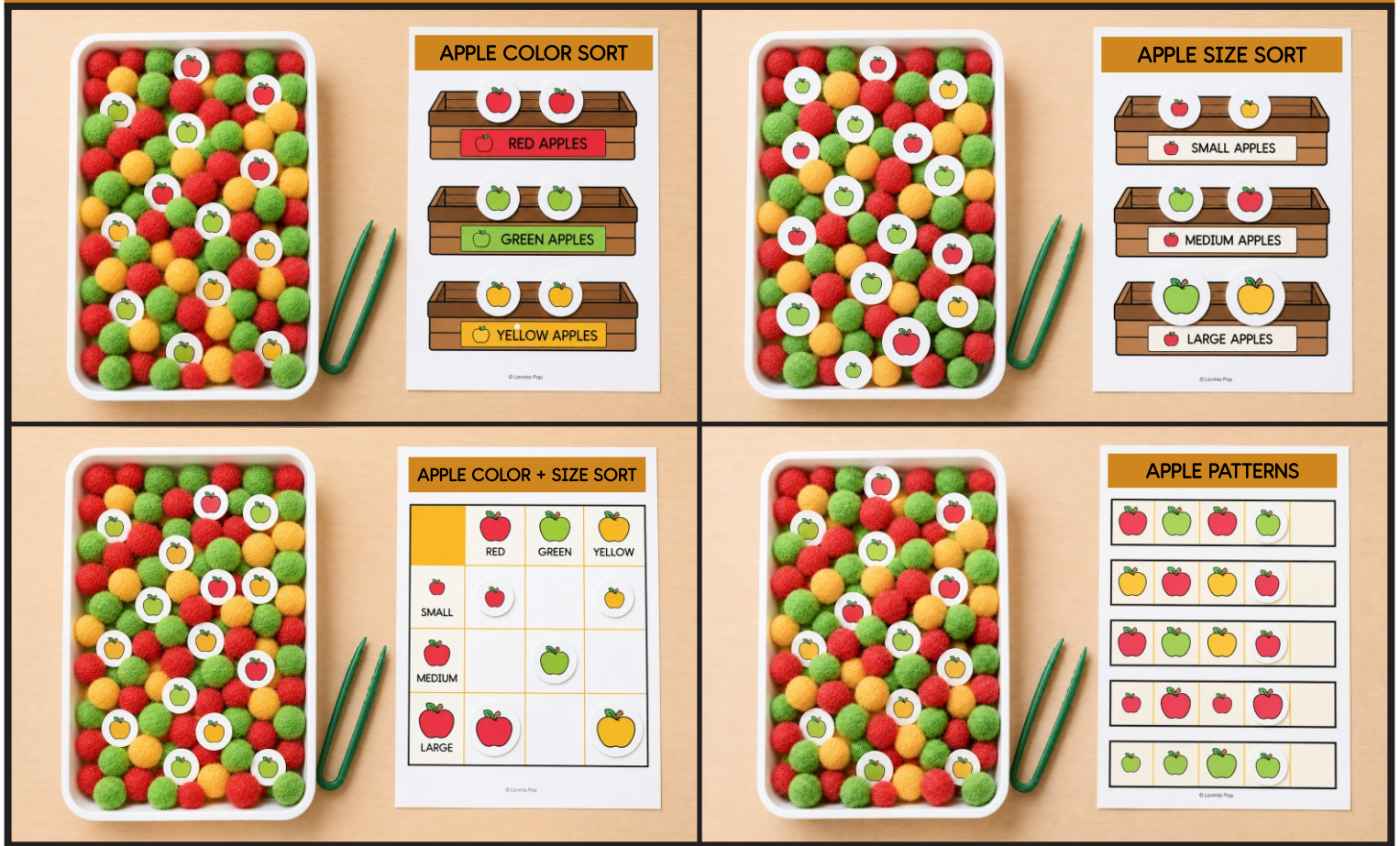
# APPLE HARVEST





# APPLE SORTING

## Teacher Directions



## YOU WILL NEED

- Apple sorting and pattern mats
- Apple circle cards
- Sensory bin and filler
- Tweezers or tongs (optional)

## HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose an activity mat.
2. Find an apple card in the sensory bin.
3. Identify its color and/or size.
4. Sort it or use it to continue the pattern.
5. Continue until the mat is complete.

## PREPARATION

1. Print the mats and cards on cardstock.
2. Laminate for durability.
3. Cut out the apple circle cards.
4. Choose one activity mat.
5. Hide the cards in the sensory bin filler.

## DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with two colors or two sizes. Add more choices, then introduce patterns and sorting by both color and size.

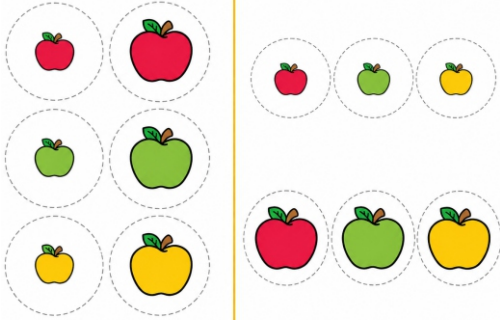
## LEARNING FOCUS

Color recognition • Size comparison • Sorting and classification  
• Patterning • Visual discrimination • Fine motor skills

# APPLE SORTING

## More Ways to Play

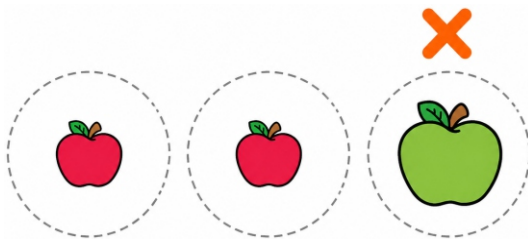
1



### SORT IT ANOTHER WAY

1. Choose six apple cards.
2. Sort the apples by color.
3. Mix them up and sort them by size.
4. Explain how the apples in each group belong together.

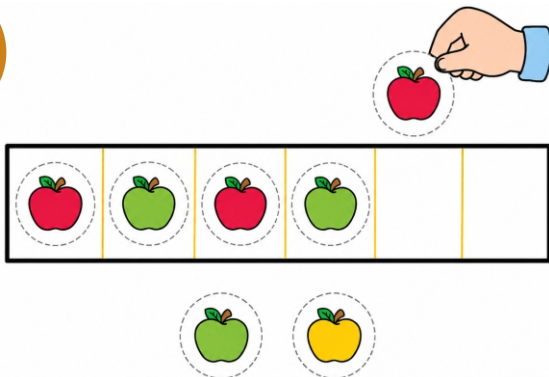
2



### WHICH APPLE DOESN'T BELONG?

1. Choose three apple cards.
2. Place two that match and one that is different.
3. Find the apple that does not belong. Explain why.

3



### MAKE AND CONTINUE A PATTERN

1. Choose two or three types of apple cards.
2. Arrange them to begin a repeating pattern.
3. Ask a partner to continue it.
4. Say the pattern aloud to check it.

### TEACHER TIP

Encourage children to describe the attribute or rule they used to sort, compare, or create a pattern.

# APPLE COLOR SORT

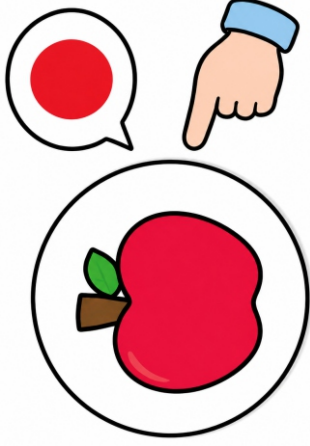
## How To Play

1



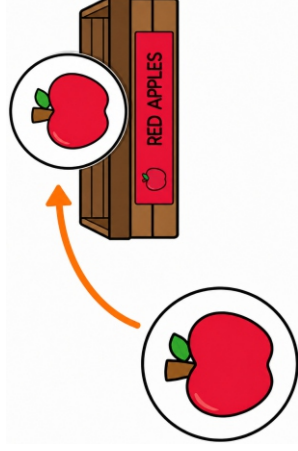
Find an apple card in the bin.

2



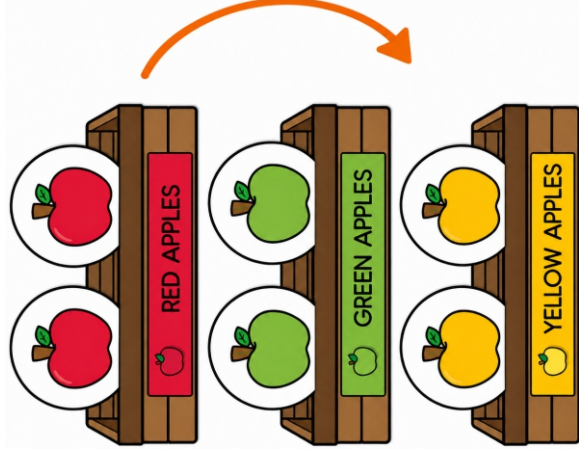
Name its color.

3



Place it on the matching crate.

4



Sort the remaining apples.

# APPLE SIZE SORT

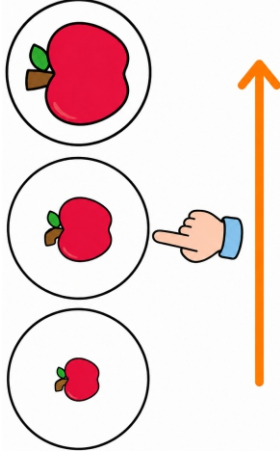
## How To Play

1



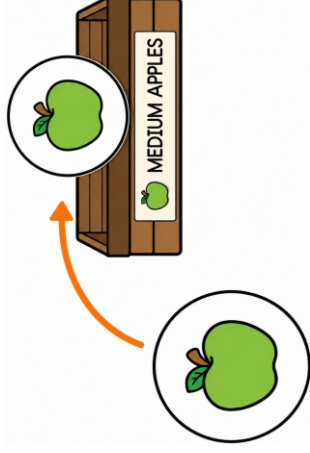
Find an apple card in the bin.

2



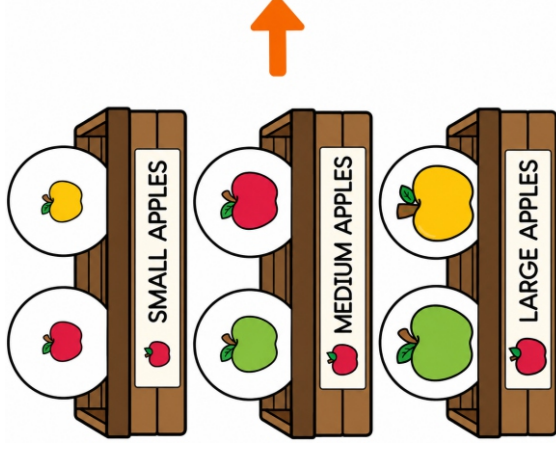
Name its size.

3



Place it on the matching crate.

4



Sort the remaining apples.

# APPLE SIZE SORT



SMALL APPLES



MEDIUM APPLES

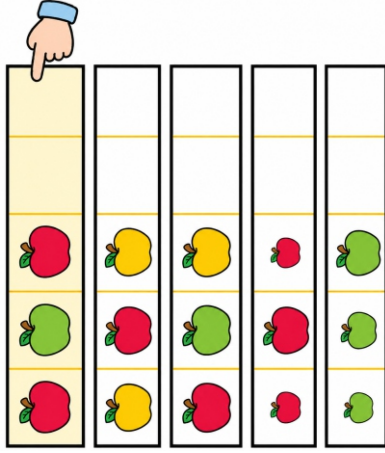


LARGE APPLES

# APPLE PATTERNS

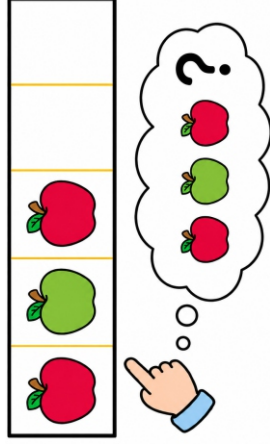
## How To Play

1



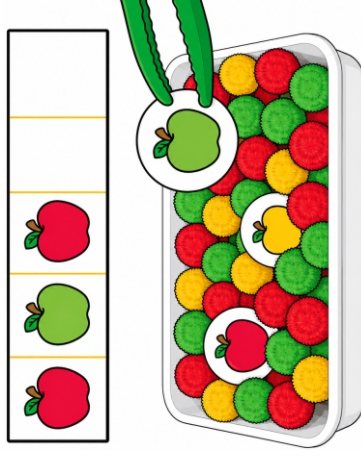
Choose a pattern row.

2



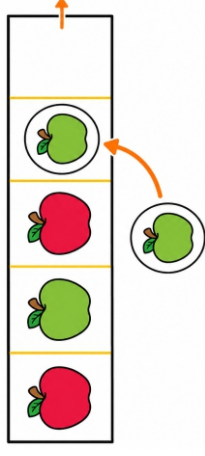
Identify the pattern.

3



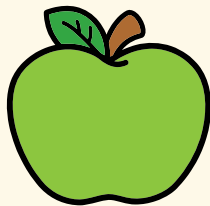
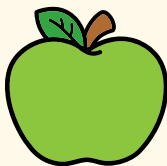
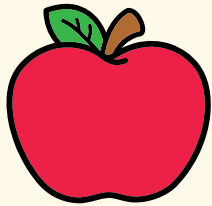
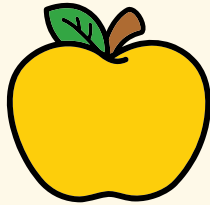
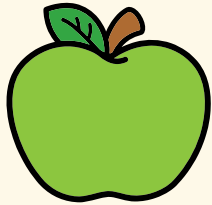
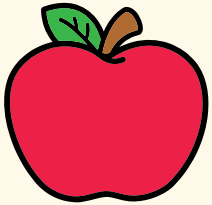
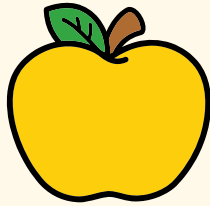
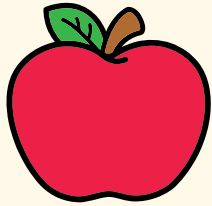
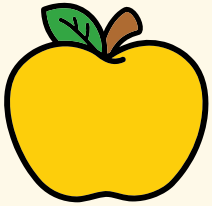
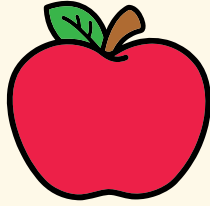
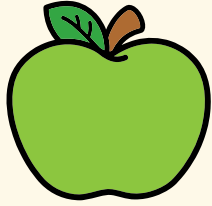
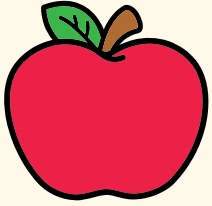
Find the apple card that comes next.

4



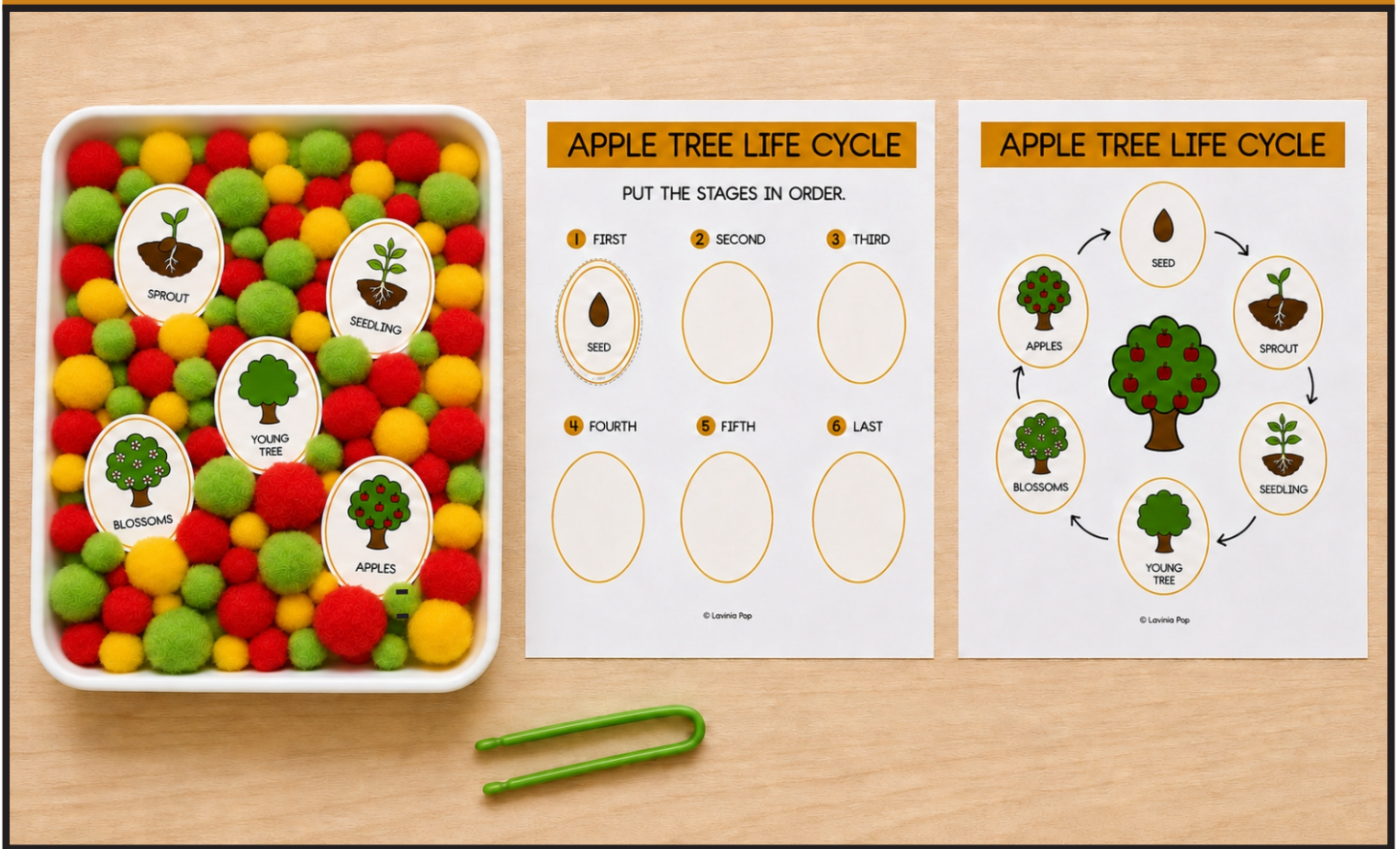
Place it in the next space.

# APPLE PATTERNS



# APPLE TREE LIFE CYCLE

## Teacher Directions



## YOU WILL NEED

- Apple tree life cycle poster
- Life cycle picture cards
- Six-stage sequencing mat
- Sensory bin and pom-poms
- Optional tweezers or tongs

## PREPARATION

1. Print the poster, picture cards, and sequencing mat on cardstock.
2. Laminate for durability.
3. Cut apart the six life-cycle picture cards.
4. Add the picture cards to the sensory bin.

## HOW TO PLAY

1. Review the life cycle poster.
2. Find and name a picture card.
3. Place it in the correct space.
4. Continue until all six stages are in order.

## DIFFERENTIATION

Use the poster as a visual guide. For a challenge, remove it and have children sequence and describe all six stages independently.

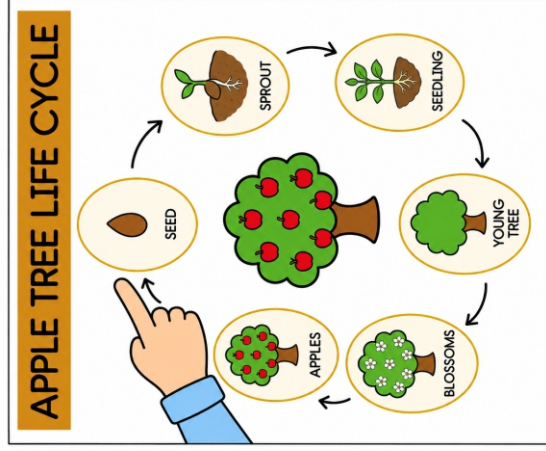
## LEARNING FOCUS

Life cycles • Sequencing • Science vocabulary •  
Observation • Fine motor skills

# APPLE TREE LIFE CYCLE

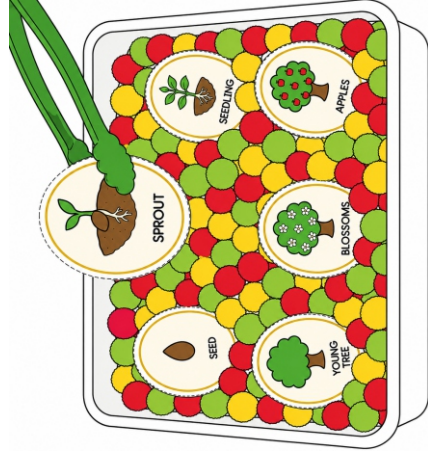
## How To Play

1



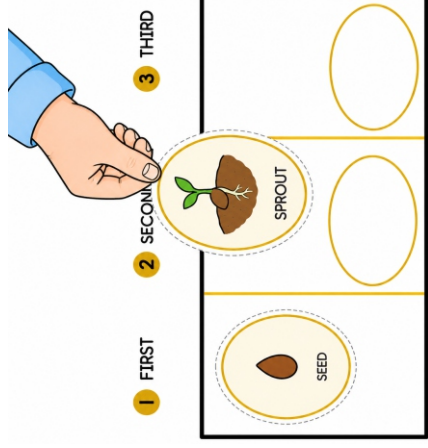
Review the life cycle poster.

2



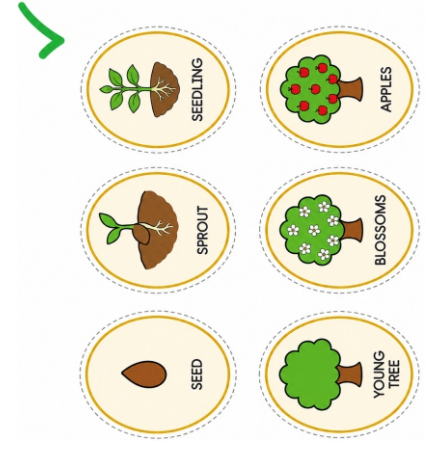
Find and name a picture card.

3



Place it in the correct space.

4

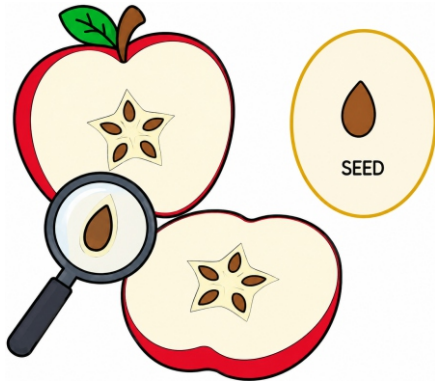


Continue until all six stages are in order.

# APPLE TREE LIFE CYCLE

## More Ways to Play

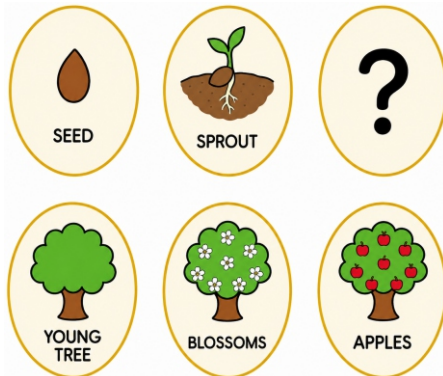
1



### APPLE SEED INVESTIGATION

1. Ask an adult to cut an apple in half.
2. Observe the seeds with a magnifying glass.
3. Match a seed to the SEED card.
4. Talk about what happens next.

2



### WHICH STAGE IS MISSING?

1. Place all six cards in order.
2. Close your eyes while one card is removed.
3. Name the missing stage.
4. Return it to the correct space.

3



### ACT OUT THE LIFE CYCLE

1. Name the six stages in order.
2. Choose a movement for each stage.
3. Act out the cycle from seed to apples.
4. Repeat using the stage names.

### TEACHER TIP

Use first, next, then and last as children observe, sequence and act out the life cycle.