

JOHNNY APPLESEED

Focus Lesson: Johnny Appleseed

Materials:

Seed by Seed by Esme Raji Codell
Printer paper
Stapler
Markers/colored pencils
Whole apples

Time: 35-40 minutes

***Common Core Standards:**
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3](#)

Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

Thinking Skill: Recount

Objective:

Students will detail the journey of John “Appleseed” Chapman.
Students will recount a progression of a story and a timeline of history.

Connection:

The efforts of individuals have been important throughout history in establishing the richness of the foods we have available. John Chapman, a legend, but also a real person, was responsible for planting thousands of apple trees across the country in the 1800s.

Explicit Instruction:

Farmers are critical to supplying food to grocery stores. Without farmers the shelves of the grocery store would be empty. The actions of certain people in history have also been important to the types of food we eat today. John Chapman had a great influence on the planting of apple trees. Johnny Appleseed has grown into a legend as an inspiration to those individuals who cultivate farmland, thereby providing food for millions of people in the United States.

Guided Practice:

Read *Seed by Seed* by Esme Raji Codell. Hand out apples to students during your reading.

Ask students to take notes about John Chapman. Every time they write something down, invite them to take a bite out of their apple. Acknowledge at the end of the reading that it is important to remember where your food comes from and who helps get it to you.

Independent Practice:

Ask students to make John Chapman flipbooks recounting his journey, lifecycle, and contribution to agriculture. Have students include both text and pictures. (A flipbook is 3 gradated sheets of paper stapled together.)

Reflection – Group Share:

If time permits, ask each student to share their favorite page with the class or with a partner.

Reading list:

Seed by Seed by Esme Raji Codell

Teacher Note: