

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.usapple.org/
This is the site for the U. S. Apple Association. It contains lots of useful information and educational materials for teachers.
- www.geocities.com/Heartland/Fields/7444/johnny_appleseed.htm
A great site which has a multitude of activities on everything Johnny Appleseed.
- www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/apples/facts.html
Everything you always wanted to know about apples, you can find here. Lots of apple trivia!

Suggested Print Resources

- Keller, Kristin Thoennes. *Apples to Applesauce*. Capstone Press, Mankato, MN; 2004.
- Kellogg, Steven. *Johnny Appleseed: A Tall Tale*. William Morrow & Company, Inc., New York, NY; 1988.
- Long, Catherine. *Westward Expansion*. Gale Group, Farmington Hills, MI; 2003.



Johnny Appleseed

Grades K-4

Tall tales are stories in which the characters and their actions and adventures are extremely exaggerated, and the audience is aware of the exaggeration and therefore in on the joke. Most American tall tales grew out of specific parts of the country and are connected to particular lines of work: lumberjacks in the Midwest, cowboys in Texas, and frontiersmen and women in the South and along the Mississippi River. The tall tale is not static; it is a living thing. The tall tale is very much a part of American folklore tradition, constantly evolving as it is retold with the teller's own particular spin. American tall tales have been around for several hundred years. They began in the oral tradition, as a form of entertainment, and have continued to evolve ever since.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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COMPLETE LIST OF TITLES

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • ANNIE OAKLEY | • MOSE HUMPHREYS |
| • CREATING A TALL TALE | • OLD STORMALONG |
| • DAVY CROCKETT | • PAUL BUNYAN |
| • JOHN HENRY | • PECOS BILL |
| • JOHNNY APPLESEED | • REGIONAL TALL TALES |

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Program Summary

In this program students will meet John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, and join him on his adventure west. As a young man, John had a dream of helping pioneers on their arduous journeys to settle the frontier, and it was in this dream that the seed of an idea was planted. John decided to populate the frontier with apple trees so that the pioneers would always have access to a source of food. John was a friend to all people and he won respect everywhere he went. Even forest animals knew that they needn't fear Johnny Appleseed. Johnny traveled barefoot through all types of weather, planting seeds and spreading good will. On one particular journey, he rescued an Indian brave, and his knowledge of herbal medicine helped to save the man's life. Johnny Appleseed continued his mission into old age and died peacefully knowing that the trees he planted would stand and provide fruit long after he was gone.

Background to Johnny Appleseed

Unlike many heroes of tall tales, Johnny Appleseed was a real person whose well-documented life became legendary. John Chapman was born in Massachusetts on September 26, 1774. His father was a farmer. John became a nurseryman, and by the age of 25 had already planted apple trees in Pennsylvania and New York. Some of the orchards in that area are said to have originated from trees John planted hundreds of years ago.

At around this time, it was common for people to hear amazing stories about the Northwest Territories. John's journey west really precipitated those of the pioneers, and he was one of the first people to explore the areas that eventually became Ohio and Indiana. He loved all people regardless of race. He is said to have had visions of the frontier populated by apple orchards and set out to make his vision a reality. He saw this as a way to assist the settlers, who began to call him Johnny Appleseed. In addition to trees, John also knew a lot about medicinal herbs and planted many of those as well. In fact, for many years, fennel was called "Johnny weed."

John was respected by Native American tribes and knew many native languages. John was a vegetarian who, as an adult, never had a permanent home. The themes of the tall tales about him reflect his belief in living in harmony with nature and in peace and love with everyone he met.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- Provide students with a brief overview of westward expansion and the hardships pioneers faced while settling the frontier.
- Using a large wall map, show students the areas in which the story of Johnny Appleseed takes place.
- Explain to students that at the time of Johnny Appleseed there was often conflict between white settlers and Native Americans over land. Have students discuss the types of conflict that might have arisen.
- Remind students about the elements of fiction, such as characters, setting and plot (containing a problem and a solution), and explain the importance of exaggeration in tall tales.

Follow-up Discussion

- Johnny Appleseed has a dream that motivates him to action. Do you think it is important to follow your dreams? How can you tell the difference between a goal that is attainable and one that is impossible?
- Johnny Appleseed is said to have respected all living things. How do you show respect to someone or something?
- Johnny Appleseed lived with very few material possessions and did not have a permanent home. If someone like John were alive today, what do you think people would make of him?
- Do you think that there are people like Johnny Appleseed today? Why or why not.

Follow-up Activities

- Although Johnny Appleseed is a legend, John Chapman was a real person. In small groups, have students make a list of all of the things in the program that could have happened and all of the things that are tall tale exaggerations of what might have really happened.
- There are many famous expressions containing the word "apple," such as, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," "The apple of my eye," "Don't upset the apple cart," and others. Assign each small group an apple saying and ask them to explain what the saying really means. Students can share explanations with the class.
- Take a trip to your local grocery store or fruit stand and have students write down all of the different varieties of apples they see. Upon returning to school, have students research various types of apples and create a book which details these different types of apples.
- Johnny Appleseed believed in taking care of and protecting the environment. Have students develop a list of a least five things that they can do in their everyday lives that will improve the environment in their neighborhoods.
- A cinquain is a five-line poem that tells about a specific topic. Have students write a cinquain about Johnny Appleseed. Cinquains can be written on red apple cutouts and displayed on a tribute wall to Johnny Appleseed.
- Have students research and create an apple recipe book. Students can include recipes for applesauce, apple pie and apple cider and include illustrations to accompany their recipes.