

Apples to Oregon

Book by Deborah Hopkinson

Literature based unit study by Mary Machado

Social Studies: Geography Oregon

The story follows the adventures of the family traveling on the Oregon Trail. Use the map on the inside cover of the book to trace the route of the family from Iowa to Oregon and locate the places mentioned by Delicious in the book (Courthouse Rock, Chimney Rock, Independence Rock, Platte River, Columbia River, Walla Walla, Washington). After making your map, compare it to a current United States map. Were the states that they went through (Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon) actually states at the time? Were there any states west of the Mississippi River in 1847? Which ones?

Oregon was the destination of the majority of travelers on the Oregon Trail. They were drawn by promises of lush land, good soil, and moderate climate. Today fruit orchards remain an important part of Oregon's economy. In the book, the family settles at the end of the trail in the area near Portland, Oregon.

Symbolism of the Flag

Specifically point out elements of the flag that connect it to the *Apples to Oregon* book:

- 1) covered wagon – many settlers including Delicious' family came to Oregon in covered wagons
- 2) plow and wheat (farming) – Delicious' daddy chose to farm in the rich soil of Oregon, Oregon is known for its strong fruit production
- 3) 1859 – the year that Oregon became a state. This book takes place in 1847. How many years before Oregon became a state did Delicious' family travel to Oregon?

Social Studies: History Oregon Trail

In the mid-1800's, thousands of pioneers (emigrants) traveled from the eastern part of the United States into the western frontier by covered wagon. Along these

well-worn trails, groups of from 15 to 30 wagons were led by experienced scouts who knew the way. The covered wagons were nicknamed "prairie schooners" because from a distance they looked like ships bobbing on the "seas" of the Great Plains. Wagon trains usually began their journey in the month of May. In order to get through the mountains and to their destination before winter snows, scouts had to prod them on to cover about 15 miles a day. This pace allowed for a variety of crises, such as wagon damage and repairs, river crossings, and bad storms.

Pioneers had to decide what to take to get them through the long months of travel as supplies would be limited on the trail. The pioneers often found that they had packed too much and would abandon unneeded items along the trail.

For discussion: Do you think it is unusual that the family in this story would take trees along? Why would it be difficult to take plants? Do you think it was a good idea? Why or why not? If you were a pioneer is there anything that you would really want to take with you on the wagon? Can you find any other stories of pioneers who brought unusual items with them on the trails?

Social Studies: Tall Tales and History

Throughout history people have told and written stories about their heroes. In America, tall tales were first told by settlers in the 1800's who made their homes in the American wilderness/frontier. *Apples to Oregon* is told in the form of a tall tale – it is based on a true story, but is exaggerated and has larger than life characters. Some of the heroes and heroines in tall tales are not real, but sometimes they are real people like Davy Crockett or Johnny Appleseed. The stories that were told about them grew bigger and became more exaggerated as time went on. Many times tall tales are specific to an occupation or a geographic region.

Common features of a tall tale:

1. A larger-than-life, or superhuman, main character with a specific job.
2. A problem that is solved in a funny way.
3. Exaggerated details that describe things as greater than they really are.

Record tall tale trait examples on the apple shape mini-book.

Additional books for studying American tall tales:

American Tall Tales – Mary Pope Osborne
Big Men, Big Country – Paul Robert Walker
Johnny Appleseed – Steven Kellogg
Paul Bunyan – Bill Balczak

Social Studies: Henderson Luelling

Find out more about Henderson Luelling, the pioneer that this story is based on. He brought over 700 fruit tree seedlings to Oregon in a covered wagon in 1847; his wife and eight children were also on the trip. He set out a fruit tree nursery in the spring of 1848 near Milwaukie. This became the source of fruit trees for many homestead orchards in the Oregon Territory.

Luelling is known as the Father of the Pacific Fruit Industry. Discuss together what parts of the story are based on fact. Which parts are exaggerated in the tall tale story? See information in author's notes.

Language Arts: Alliteration

The author of *Apples to Oregon* uses alliteration throughout the book. Alliteration is when the first consonant sound in a word is repeated in a phrase.

Use the flap book to record some of your own fruit alliterations!

Language Arts: Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that uses exaggeration or overstatement for emphasis or humor.

Exaggeration means claiming something is greater than it really is.

For example:

"I'm so hungry that I could eat a horse."

"I can run faster than the speed of light."

Can your student remember some of the things that Delicious said that were exaggeration.

"It (the Platte River) was wider than Texas."

"I reckon that wind blew my left boot clear to the other side of the moon."

"...our feet were redder than the poison apple the old witch gave to Snow White."

Have your student pick one characteristic of something to write about, and exaggerate it as wildly as he can. Example if using the world's spiciest food. What kind of food might that be? Maybe a hot pepper. What kinds of things would happen if you ate the world's hottest hot pepper? Would you breathe flames? Would your hair ignite? Would you drink a lot of water? Perhaps an entire lake? What else would happen?

Language: Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, quality, or idea is represented as a person, or has human characteristics. In *Apples to Oregon*, Delicious talks about the varmint, Jack Frost as if he (frost) were a person. People sometimes refer to a visit from Jack Frost when they mean that the ground has developed a layer of frost during the night.

List all the descriptions of Jack Frost from the book that make it sound like he is a person.

He is described as

“...sneaking around our campsite”

“brushing the cottonwoods with his cold white tongue”

“slinking across the meadow”

“...hightailing it out of here”

From the way Delicious describes Jack Frost, what do you think he would look like? Describe him.

Mini-book: Use one side of the shuttertied book to record the examples of personification. Use the other side to draw Jack Frost.

Language: Vocabulary

daring – courageous

ornery – stubborn and mean-spirited

crooning – singing or humming softly

fluttered – to wave or flap lightly and rapidly

plummeting – dropping straight down, plunging

tuckered – tired

sagebrush – an aromatic shrub that is common in the western US

keeled – to drop or faint from shock or being really tired

scrutinized – to examine or observe with great care

numb – having no feeling as from too much cold

swanky – extremely elegant, grand

prospector – one who explores an area for natural deposits, such as gold

bushel – a dry measure, containing four pecks, eight gallons, or thirty-two quarts

Math: Fractions

Take several apples or other larger fruit (peaches, pears) and cut each into pieces to illustrate fractions. Cut first fruit in half (cut through stem to blossom end). Show students that there are now two pieces – each one is $\frac{1}{2}$ of the fruit. Now cut those pieces in half again. Show your student that there are now 4 pieces – each piece is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the fruit. Cut in half again for eighths. Start with a new fruit and cut it initially into three equal pieces – show that each is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fruit. Cut those pieces in half and show that the pieces are now $\frac{1}{6}$ of the fruit. Try some simple fraction addition or subtraction. Use more fruit if needed.

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$$

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{3} = 1$$

$$\frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{4}{8}$$

$\frac{4}{8}$ is also equal to what? - $\frac{1}{2}$

Ask student to point out relationships he notices between different fractions.

Books to use for illustrating fractions:

Apple Fractions – Jerry Pallotta

Apple Fractions – Donna Townsend

Math: Circumference

Using string and a ruler, find the circumference of an apple.

Math: Graphing

Make a graph of comparing the different kinds of fruit trees Henderson Luelling brought (apple, peach, pear, cherry). Make a bar graph for each fruit type, then graph the number of different varieties he brought of each type of fruit tree (18 apple trees, 8 pear trees, 3 peach trees, and 6 cherry trees). Which type of tree did he bring the most varieties of? The least? How many more types of apple trees did he bring than cherry?

Science: Weather

Delicious and her family encountered many different types of weather during their journey to Oregon. Review the weather phenomenon that they experienced: drought, wind, rain, hail, frost. With your student, each day this week keep a record of what kind of weather you have that day. Compare it to the forecast in the newspaper or online? Was the forecast correct?

If interested, study weather and find out more about the variety of weather phenomenon.

Science: Growing Fruit Trees

Fruit trees grow from seeds. The seeds are found inside of the fruit. Take a look at the seeds in an apple. How many seeds does it have? What size are the seeds? Compare the apples seeds to other fruit seeds from fruit mentioned in the book (peach, pear, plum, cherry). How many seeds does a cherry have? A pear? A plum? A peach? Which fruit has the biggest seed? The smallest?

The science of fruit growing is called pomology. If you plant a seed from an apple an apple tree will grow, but you can't be sure what kind of apples will grow on it. So in most orchards farmers use a different method for growing apple trees. It's called grafting. A farmer cuts a small branch or bud (called a scion) from a grown tree that produces the kind of apple he wants. Then he puts the branch/bud into a

small cut in the trunk or under a slit in the bark of another apple tree already rooted in the ground (called the rootstock). This is taped together or covered with wax to protect it. The rootstock and scion join together and grow to produce a tree that grows the kind of apples that farmer chose.

These books have good illustrations and explanation of the process of grafting.

Apples – Rhoda Nottridge

Apple Trees – Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

Science: Density

One of the apple facts on the back of the book is that fresh apples float, because 25% of their volume is air. Objects float if they are less dense than water.

Experiment with an apple by placing it in a bucket of water. Does it float or sink? Check other objects (cork, rubber band, key, quarter, rock, crumpled paper, ice cube, stick, nail, etc.). Before putting them into the water, have your student make a guess whether each will float or sink. Sort the items into a sink pile and a float pile. Then test them to find out.

Art: Music

In the story Pa fiddled lullabies to the fruit trees. Fiddle music was a common form of entertainment in the 1800's and particularly with the travelers along the frontier trails. In the evenings the pioneers would often listen to or dance along with the fiddle music played by one of the pioneers. Find a collection of fiddle music at the library or music store to listen to.

Imagine you are a pioneer on the trail listening to the music. How does the music make you feel? After a hard day of traveling it was a nice diversion to have the music.

Craft: Apple Printing

Note the apples facts on the back of the book "Cut an apple in half, across the core, and you'll see a star."

Materials Needed: Apples (or other fruit-cherry, pear, etc.). paper towels, Styrofoam plate, construction paper, paint

Instructions: Cut the apple in half. Cut through the top and out the bottom to make a 'traditional' apple print, cut through the middle to make apple 'star' prints. Fold a paper towel into 4ths and lay it on the bottom of the Styrofoam plate. Pour paint into the center of the paper towel to make it into a stamp pad. Dip the cut side of the apple into the paint. Dab it around on the paper towel to wipe off excess paint, and then press it onto the paper. You can also use other fruits to make prints.

Just for Fun Activities

Next time you go to the grocery store with your student point out all the different kinds of apples. Buy a few different kinds, and when you get home, let your student try them. Ask how each one tastes. Ask your student how each one is different.

Field Trip ideas

- Visit a local apple (or cherry, peach, pear) orchard or self-pick fruit farm. If you can't visit an orchard find out about one in a book like *Life on an Apple Orchard* – Judy Wolfman

-Visit a local nursery (one that specializes in trees would be good) to see young plants/seedlings. Find out how the growers grow, transport, transplant the young plants. See if they can demonstrate grafting. Or look for signs that a tree has been grafted.

-If you live in a state along the Oregon Trail, visit a historic marker or site along the trail.

Recipe: Applesauce

1 quart Apples (peeled and sliced)

1 cup Water

1/2 cup Sugar

1 tsp. Lemon Juice

Cinnamon (optional)

Put all the ingredients in a sauce pan and cook until tender, about 20 minutes. Mash the mixture using a potato masher or an electric mixer until it is smooth. Top with a little cinnamon if desired.

Additional Books of Interest

Pioneer Settlers/Oregon Trail

Sunsets of the West – Troy Johnson (actually about the California Trail, but excellent depiction of life for pioneers on the western trails)

Covered Wagons, Bumpy Trails – Verla Kay

Roughing it on the Oregon Trail – Diane Stanely

Conestoga Wagon - Richard Ammon

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon - Ellen Levine

A Frontier Fort on the Oregon Trail - Scott Steedman

Oregon

B is for Beaver: An Oregon Alphabet - Marie & Roland Smith

Oregon (From Sea to Shining Sea) - Dennis Fradin

Apples

The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree – Gail Gibbons

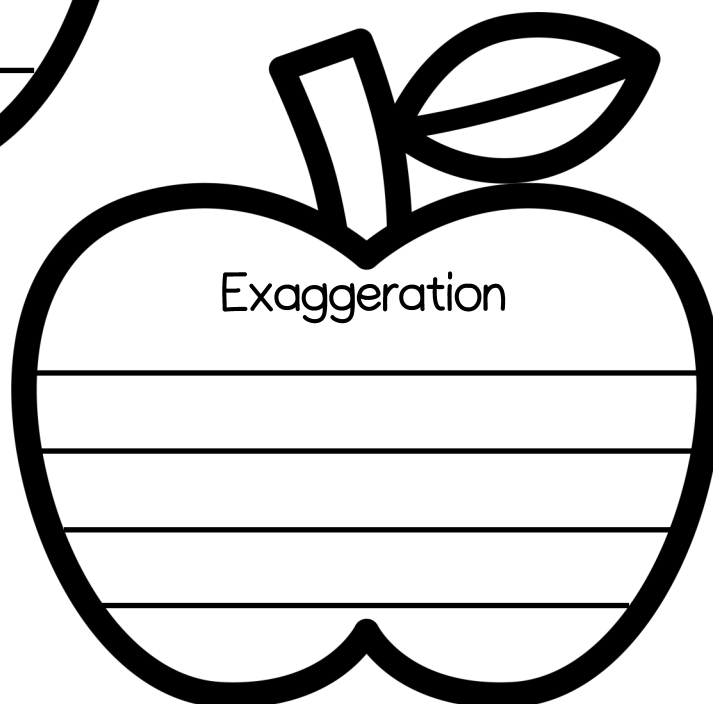
Apples – Gail Gibbons

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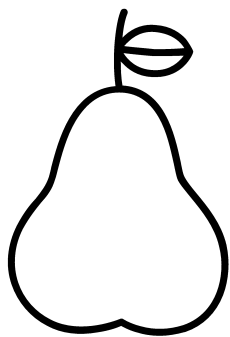
Directions: Cut out apple shapes. Stack together and secure with a staple.

Discuss tall tale traits. Write examples of humor and exaggeration from the story on the pages.

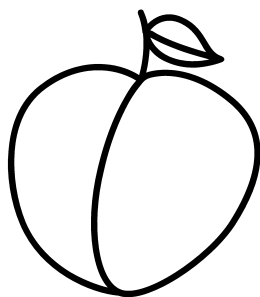


Directions: Cut on solid lines. Fold on dotted.

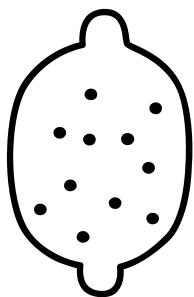
Fruit Alliterations



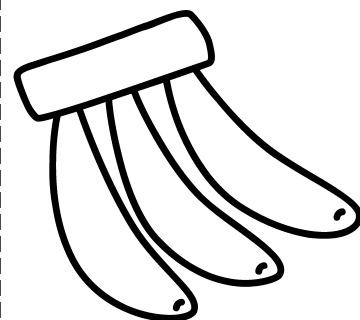
The pears are



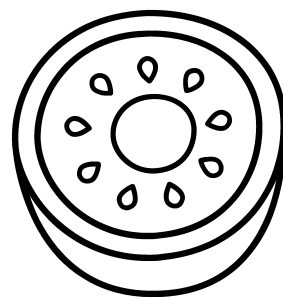
The peaches are



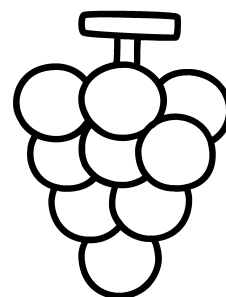
The lemons are



The bananas are



The kiwis are



The grapes are




Map the Luelling family's route
on the United States map.



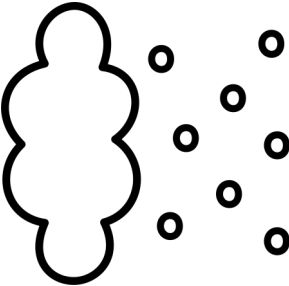
What was the Oregon Trail?

Print onto card stock and cut out. Punch holes where indicated. Fold on dotted lines. To secure book, string a ribbon through the holes and tie with a bow on the front.

Personifications
for Jack Frost



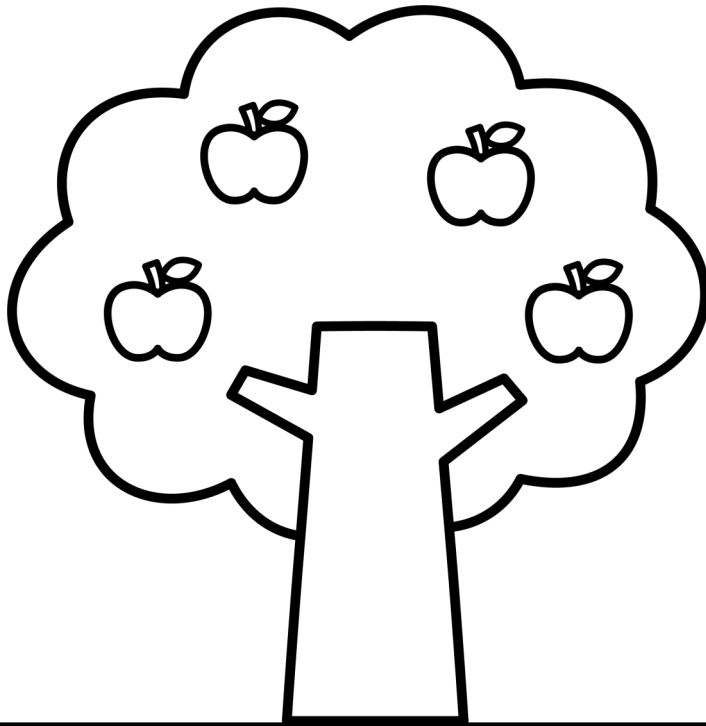
My Picture of
Jack Frost



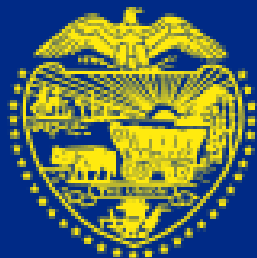
Complete graph using the information in the unit study. Cut out. Fold in half. Paste cover (next page) to the front of the graph.

18	18	18	18
17	17	17	17
16	16	16	16
15	15	15	15
14	14	14	14
13	13	13	13
12	12	12	12
11	11	11	11
10	10	10	10
9	9	9	9
8	8	8	8
7	7	7	7
6	6	6	6
5	5	5	5
4	4	4	4
3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1
Apple	Peach	Pear	Cherry

Fruit Tree Graph



STATE OF OREGON



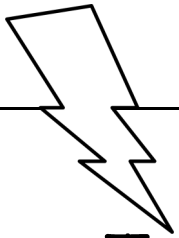
1859

Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half. Use the inside of the book to explain the symbolism of Oregon's state flag.

Weather Chart



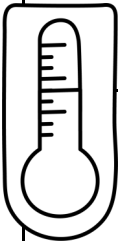
Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday

Weather
Predicted

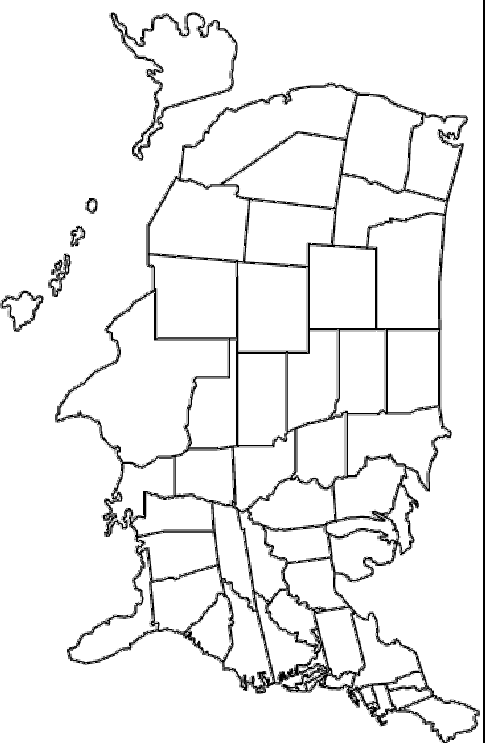
Actual
Weather

Oregon

Where in the
United States
is...



Locate and color in the state.



Cut out book as one piece on solid lines. Fold on dotted lines.
Cut out map on solid lines and glue under shutters.

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