In the book “What’s in the Garden?” the reader is introduced to twelve different vegetables and fruits. In this activity, students focus on apples and learn more about them through various activities and experiments.

Materials Needed
- A copy of “What’s in the Garden?”
- Basket of different types of apples: (Cortland, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith)
- Paper and magic markers

Procedure
1. Read the book, as students guess the fruit or vegetable in the rhyme, before turning the page to see what it is.
2. Ask students how the apple is different from the other fruits and veggies in the book.
3. Read the first line: “In spring there are blossoms” all over the tree. Discuss the life cycle of an apple tree.
4. Pass out paper and markers. Ask students to fold paper into four squares and draw the four seasons of an apple tree. Spring with blossoms, summer with green apples, fall with red apples and fall colors, and in winter bare.
5. Older students can study the life cycle in more detail, i.e. how the tree rests in winter, drawing branches with little leaf buds that unfold in the spring and grow into flowers. Honeybees collect the sweet nectar in the blossoms, picking up pollen. When the bee lands on another apple blossom, it leaves pollen grains on the sticky stigma which reaches the ovary, which when fertilized becomes a seed. The outer wall of the ovary develops into the fleshy white part of the apple. The inner wall becomes the apple core around the seeds. In summer the green apples grow bigger and change color, and are ready for harvest in the fall.

Additional Resources
Find out more about the old saying, “An apple a day, keeps the doctor away.” at http://urbanext.illinois.edu/apples/facts.cfm. Lots of interesting apple facts on this site.
Books about apples:
- How Do Apples Grow? By Betsy Maestro, Collins 1993
- Johnny Appleseed by Reeve Lindbergh, Little, Brown Books 1993
- The Season of Arnold’s Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons, Sandpiper 1988
- The Tree That Bear Climbed by Marianne Berkes, Sylvan Dell, 2012

Key Concepts
- Unifying concepts and processes through evidence, models and explanation
- Understandings about scientific inquiry
- Characteristics of organisms, organisms and environment
- Humans depend on environments

Nature Connections
- Ask students where they think the apples in the basket came from? From a tiny apple seed, many apples make a long journey from an orchard to get to where you buy them. What state do they think each apple grew in? (e.g. Cortland is in New York; what other states are known for growing apples?)
- Have children compare the different color apples, and record what they see. Do they smell the same?
- Cut the apples in half horizontally instead of vertically to reveal a star shape in the center and the seeds. Have children predict how many seeds they will find in each apple.