



Johnny Appleseed

by Steve Kellogg

Teacher's Guide

Written By Martin Traver

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Synopsis

Johnny Appleseed had a difficult early life. His mother and baby brother died before his second birthday. After his father remarried, Johnny was part of a family of ten brothers and sisters.

From an early age he loved all of nature. This love led him to leave home at an early age to explore the vast wilderness east of Massachusetts. All along the way, as far west as Indiana, he planted apple orchards with the seeds he always carried in a pouch. He looked forward to supplying the pioneer families with apple trees. Whenever he ran out of apple seeds he hiked to the eastern cider presses to replenish his supply.

Johnny went out of his way to help his neighbors. He particularly enjoyed entertaining children with tales of his wilderness adventures.

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People urged Johnny to settle down and build a house. He replied that he lived like a king in his wilderness home.

During his long absences people began to retell his stories. They even exaggerated them a bit. Thus, tall tales about Johnny Appleseed thrived and grew. Johnny passed away in March, 1845 at the age of 41. He is one of the most gentle, generous, and beloved of America's folklore figures.

Timeline

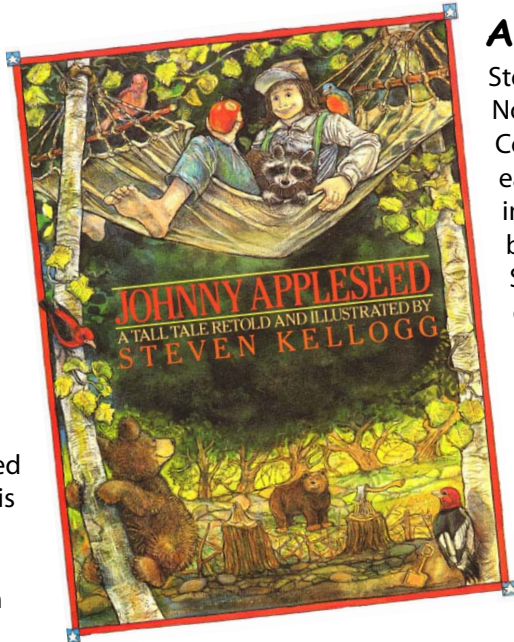
Birth John Chapman is born September 26, 1774, in Leominster, Massachusetts.

Early life Young John loses his mother and baby brother before he is two. His father

remarries into a family of ten brothers and sisters

Adulthood John leaves home and wanders the frontier, planting apple orchards as he goes. He becomes famous for his helpfulness and tree planting.

Death Johnny Appleseed dies in Indiana on February 18, 1845.



Author Sketch

Steven Kellogg writes, "I was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, and I have lived in Connecticut most of my life. During my early years my best friend, and the most important influence on my decision to become an artist, was my grandmother. She was much more at ease with children than adults, and I loved the hours I spent listening to the stories of her childhood in the late nineteenth century. She taught me to know the plants, birds, and animals of the New England woods, and she enthusiastically shared and transplanted her appreciation for the variety of trivial and wonderful treasures that comprised the Victorian clutter of her room. It pleases and surprises me to

realize how often the images that appear in my writing and illustrations hearken back to the experiences I shared with her.

"During my high school years I continued to spend a great deal of time painting and drawing, and after graduating I received a Pitney Bowes Scholarship and attended the Rhode Island School of Design.

The best part of that experience came with my senior year and a European Honors Fellowship that sent me to Italy. I was in Florence during the second semester, and I remember the experience of living in that magic city as one of the most meaningful and wonderful of my life.

"Some of my earliest memories involve loving to draw, and during my elementary school days, I particularly

loved drawing animals and birds. My favorite drawings were thumbtacked in my room from floor to ceiling, and the place had the appearance of a crayoned, aviary-besitiary.

"Upon my return I did some graduate work at American University where I taught etching. I exhibited my etchings and paintings in the Washington area. At the same time I became increasingly interested in children's books, and I began "submitting illustrated manuscripts to publishers in New York. During 1966 I was commissioned to illustrate *Gwot!* by George Mendoza, and then newly married and having acquired six stepchildren, I moved back to Connecticut to devote myself full time to the writing and illustrating of children's books.

"Since then I have illustrated many books, several film strips, and I've written and illustrated a number of books of my own. Among my favorites are Margaret Mahy's *The Boy Who Was Followed Home*, and *The Island of the Skog*. I am fascinated by the picture book as an art form, and I love writing and illustrating for children. They are an observant and responsive audience and I enjoy the challenge that comes with knowing that the picture book is an art form that is an important factor in the foundation of their aesthetic judgment."

Critic's Corner

Both children and adults will love this book. *Johnny Appleseed* is much more than just a tall tale about frontier life. It is frontier America at its best-- facing challenge, overcoming obstacles and all done in a gentle, generous way. It is a story which shows you a true humanitarian. Johnny Appleseed loved all people. He was a man who hated violence and loved the environment.

This is a story which can help children understand what their role toward others and the environment ought to be. Steve Kellogg succeeds in weaving incidents and images into his illustrations.

Objectives

1. To get children to love tall tales woods
2. To trace Johnny Appleseed's movement westward from Massachusetts to Indiana.
3. To develop the same love of nature that Johnny Appleseed had
4. To expand the student's vocabulary (40 key words)
5. To understand the bond frontier people had with

each other for support and survival

Introductory Activity

Discuss what an important role the apple has played throughout mankind going back to Adam and Eve. Charred remains of the fruit have been found in ruins of prehistoric lake dwellings. Stone Age men carved pictures of apples. Greek mythology tells how the golden apple of discord led to the fall of Troy.



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the importance of geography in this story. Be sure that students can locate Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, also the Allegheny Mountains and Lake Erie Shore.
2. Discuss how Johnny Appleseed used his survival skills to help both himself and the settlers.
3. Discuss how Johnny Appleseed loved the environment. There are many examples (love of animals, refusal to shoot anything, conservation of land, etc.)
4. Compare the true known facts about Johnny Appleseed and the tall tales that grew up around him.
5. Discuss other folklore figures. Compare them with Johnny Appleseed. Do any of them have the same qualities of gentleness and generosity that he had?
6. Discuss how you can overcome a difficult childhood. Example: Johnny Appleseed's mother died before he was age 2, also his baby brother; his father was gone fighting the Revolutionary War; after his father remarried, he was part of a family of ten children. Johnny Appleseed overcame his early difficulties. So can you. In spite of early setbacks, you can reach your dream goal if you really want to.

Student Involvement Activities

1. If possible, have the class read this book during the autumn season. This is the height of the apple-picking season. A trip to an orchard or cider mill would bring the central theme of the book alive.
2. Have the children bring in a favorite family recipe that requires apples. Set up a time to copy others' recipes to take home.
3. Have each student make up his own tall tale about Johnny

Appleseed. Have each present it to the class orally. Follow this up with an art project to draw your tall tale. (The double page picture on pages 29 and 30 can help get their minds going.)

4. Have students write the Chamber of Commerce of towns within a hundred-mile radius to see which have Fall Festivals. Apples and apple products are almost always a part of such festivals.

5. Compose a class letter and send it to the Department of Tourism, Seattle, Washington. Ask for all available information about apples from this #1 in America Apple State.

6. Have the class do some research on types of apples. List them on the board. The class should have little trouble finding at least 25 types. Start them off with some obvious ones such as: Red Delicious, Jonathan, and McIntosh.

7. At the end of the book, "fun test" on how closely the students look for detail in the illustrations. As a group list all the animals they have spotted.

This could also be a boys against girls game for a Friday afternoon wrap up. (There should be at least 27 starting from inside the front cover.)

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. geese | 15. bluebirds |
| 2. bears | 16. rabbit |
| 3. raccoon | 17. elk |
| 4. deer | 18. bobcat |
| 5. dog | 19. cardinal |
| 6. wolf | 20. eagle |
| 7. cat | 21. ox |
| 8. horse | 22. owl |
| 9. pig | 23. snake |
| 10. chicken | 24. cougar |
| 11. rooster | 25. giant fish |
| 12. cow | 26. shark |
| 13. bull | 27. woodpecker |
| 14. robin | 28. there might be other birds |

Bibliography

Apples, illustrated by William Robertshaw
Apple A Day, by Barrett
Apple A Day Adventure of a Country Doctor, by Slater
The Apple and Other Fruits, by Millicent Selsam
An Apple Tree Through the Year, by Claudia Schniepeer
The Third Book of Junior Authors, Doris DeMontreville and Donna Hill (ed.)
Apples, Apples, Apples, Elizabeth Helfman
Apples Cookbook, Fulwiler
Apple Cookbook Illustrations, Woodier

"Johnny Appleseed,"
<en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnny_Appleseed>

"Steven Kellogg," <www.stevenkellogg.com/>

For Young Readers

A Apple Pie, by Tracey Campbell
Apple Tree Christmas, by Trinka Noble

Cross-Curricular Resources

Bultitude, John, *Apples, A Guide to the Identification of International Varieties*; John Bulwood
Apple Growing, Maurice Burritt
Apple Trees, Sylvia Johnson

Selected Other Works by Steve Kellogg

A-Hunting We Will Go
Is Your Mama a Llama?
The Mysterious Tadpole
How Much is a Million?
The Missing Mitten Mystery
The Baby Beebee Bird
Pecos Bill : A Tall Tale
Paul Bunyan
Pinkerton, Behave!
Island of the Skog
Johnny Appleseed
Yankee Doodle
Tu Mama Es Una Llama?/Is Your Mama a...
The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash...
A Rose for Pinkerton
Jack and the Beanstalk
Parents in the Pigpen, Pigs in the Tub
The Christmas Witch (Picture Puffins)
Best Friends (Pied Piper Paperback)
A, My Name Is Alice
Chicken Little
Jimmy's Boa Bounces Back
Big Bear Ball
Mike Fink : A Tall Tale
Day the Goose Got Loose
Give the Dog a Bone
Tallyho, Pinkerton! (Pinkerton)
If You Made a Million
A Penguin Pup for Pinkerton
Library Lil
The Three Little Pigs
Snuffles and Snouts

Abby

Frogs Jump : A Counting Book

Prehistoric Pinkerton

Ready! Set! Measure: Climb Aboard

Pollita Pequenita/Chicken Little

Leo, Zack, and Emmie

Aster Aardvark's Alphabet Adventures

Won't Somebody Play With Me

Engelbert the Elephant

Barney Bipple's Magic Dandelions

Millicent the Magnificent

The Most Delicious Camping Trip Ever

There Was an Old Woman

Grouchy Uncle Otto

Come Here, Cat

Granny and the Desperados

The Wicked Kings of Bloon

Word Study

Johnny Appleseed Top 40 Key Vocabulary List

(In the order that they appear in the story.)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. autumn | 21. frontier |
| 2. remarry | 22. eagerly |
| 3. decade | 23. exhausted |
| 4. overflowing | 24. replenish |
| 5. orchard | 25. homesites |
| 6. cider | 26. affectionately |
| 7. vinegar | 27. incited |
| 8. blossoms | 28. invaded |
| 9. inspired | 29. grieved |
| 10. boisterous | 30. recollections |
| 11. tranquil | 31. exaggerated |
| 12. explore | 32. hammock |
| 13. vast | 33. chatting |
| 14. wilderness | 34. penetrate |
| 15. plot | 35. tended |
| 16. pouch | 36. frolicking |
| 17. pioneer | 37. feats |
| 18. diet | 38. untamed |
| 19. amazed | 39. trudging |
| 20. challenged | 40. slopes |

Vocabulary Test

Matching I (10 points)

Draw a line from the vocabulary word in Column I to its definition in Column II.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. autumn | A. to walk in a tired way |
| 2. orchard | B. a long piece of canvas that is hung from ropes at each end |
| 3. explore | C. piece of land where fruit trees grow |
| 4. wilderness | D. to play in a carefree way |
| 5. frontier | E. very tired |
| 6. exhausted | F. season of the year between summer and winter |
| 7. invade | G. to enter with an army in order to conquer |
| 8. hammock | H. to travel in a region that is unknown |
| 9. frolicking | I. the part of the country that lies next to a wilderness region |
| 10. trudging | J. an uncultivated and uninhabited region |

Match II (10 points)

Draw a line from the vocabulary word in Column I to its definition in Column II.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. decade | A. a place where a family makes its home |
| _____ 2. cider | B. a person who goes before opening the way for others |
| _____ 3. vast | C. very large |
| _____ 4. pioneer | D. a condition or act of flowering |
| _____ 5. homesites | E. still in a wild state |
| _____ 6. exaggerated | F. a period of ten years |
| _____ 7. untamed | G. to talk in an easy relaxed way |
| _____ 8. tranquil | H. to make something seem greater than it really is |
| _____ 9. chatting | I. calm, quiet |
| _____ 10. blossoms | J. juice pressed from apples, used as a drink |

Comprehension Test A

(20 points)

Read each question and circle the best answer.

1. Johnny Appleseed was born in

- A) Ohio B) New York C) Massachusetts.

2. Animals felt this when Johnny was around

- A) fear B) trust C) sad.

3. The mountain range mentioned in this story is the

- A) Rocky B) Allegheny C) Smoky.

4. The story says that when a storm struck, Johnny would find shelter

- A) in a hollow log B) in a cave C) in a cabin.

5. Whenever he ran out of apple seeds Johnny

- A) picked some apples and took the seeds B) got seeds from the settlers C) hiked back to the eastern cider presses.

6. In the War of 1812 the settlers feared invasion from

- A) the British B) the French C) the Spanish.

7. One tall tale was that Johnny's feet were as tough as

- A) bear skin B) snake skin C) elephant's hide.

8. Johnny moved from Ohio because

- A) all the land was used up B) it became too crowded C) he didn't like the people.

9. Johnny Appleseed's real name was

- A) John Chapman B) John Chaplain C) John Champion.

10. Johnny's father left the family to

- A) fight in the War of 1812 B) fight in the Revolutionary War C) fight in the Civil War.

Comprehension Test B

(20 points)

Read each question and circle the best answer.

1. Most early American families stored their apples for the winter in
A) the winter room B) the barn C) the cellar.
2. Johnny always carried this filled with apple seeds
A) a canvas bag B) a small basket C) a pouch.
3. During the winter Johnny survived on a diet of
A) dried fruit B) butternuts C) beef sticks.
4. Johnny had no use for
A) guns B) Indians C) wildcats.
5. The favorite frontier sport was
A) canoe racing B) basketball C) wrestling.
6. Johnny challenged the woodsmen to a
A) footrace B) tree-chopping match C) trapping contest.
7. Johnny particularly liked stories from
A) the Bible B) the tall tale book C) the newspaper.
8. Johnny once ran through the night to warn his friends
A) that the British were coming B) that a fire was coming C) that the Indians were coming.
9. It was said that Johnny had a pet
A) Bear B) wolf C) snake.
10. Johnny died near
A) Longmeadow, Massachusetts B) Logan, Ohio C) Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

Match I (10 points)

- 1. F
- 2. C
- 3. H
- 4. J
- 5. I
- 6. E
- 7. G
- 8. B
- 9. D
- 10. A

Match II (10 points)

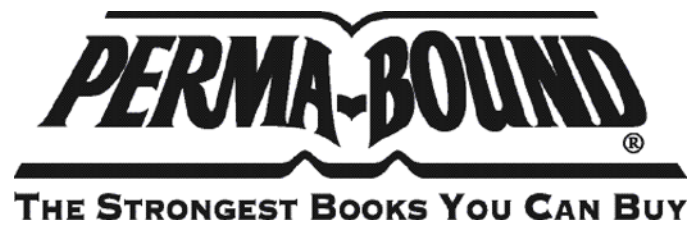
- 1. F
- 2. J
- 3. C
- 4. B
- 5. A
- 6. H
- 7. E
- 8. I
- 9. G
- 10. D

**Comprehension Test A
(20 points)**

- 1. C
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4. A
- 5. C
- 6. A
- 7. C
- 8. B
- 9. A
- 10. B

**Comprehension Test B
(20 points)**

- 1. C
- 2. C
- 3. B
- 4. A
- 5. C
- 6. B
- 7. A
- 8. B
- 9. B
- 10. C



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