

Baby Animals & Apple Blossoms

An Interactive Learning Experience on Early Life Cycles at Hidden Valley Orchards

Grade Level Lesson Plan Overview:

Our "Baby Animals and Apple Blossoms" field trip unit is individually customized for all elementary grade levels and centers around two key themes: "New Animal Life" and "New Plant Life." By directly interacting with plants and animals, students will explore life science concepts, seasonal changes, and the intricate relationships within ecosystems.

In accordance with Ohio's Learning Standards and Model Curriculum for science, this program provides an invaluable, hands-on experience that will leave a lasting impression on students.

The following outlines the learning objectives for each grade level, highlighting key science standards related to both "Baby Animals" and "Apple Blossoms."

Pre-Kindergarten

Baby Animals:

- **Exploration and Observation:** Explore and observe the natural world using simple tools (e.g., observing farm animals and plants).
- **Life Science - Living Things:** Recognize that living things have basic needs such as food, water, and shelter.

Apple Blossoms:

- **Observation of Natural Environments:** Explore and discuss plants and flowers, observing different parts (e.g., leaves, stems, flowers, and fruits).
- **Basic Needs of Living Things:** Discuss how plants are an essential part of the environment, requiring sunlight, water, and a place to grow.

Kindergarten

Baby Animals:

- **Life Science - Characteristics of Living Things:** Identify basic plant and animal needs for survival (e.g., food, water, and light).
- **Earth and Space Science - Seasonal Changes:** Understand how plants and animals change with the seasons.

Apple Blossoms:

- **Living and Non-Living Things:** Differentiate between living and non-living things, noting that plants are alive and have basic needs.
- **Exploring Patterns in Nature:** Observe seasonal changes and discuss how plants grow, produce flowers, and bear fruit like apples.

Grade 1

Baby Animals:

- **Life Science - Basic Needs of Living Things:** Describe how plants and animals need air, water, and food to live and grow (e.g., farm plants and animals).
- **Interdependence:** Explore how plants and animals depend on each other within an environment, such as on a farm.

Apple Blossoms:

- **Life Cycles and Plant Growth:** Study the life cycle of plants, focusing on how seeds grow into mature plants that produce flowers and fruits.
- **Plants and Animal Needs:** Discuss different stages of plant growth observed in apple blossoms and fruit formation.

Grade 2

Baby Animals:

- **Earth and Life Science - Interactions in Habitats:** Describe how plants and animals interact with their environment (e.g., farm plants needing soil and sunlight).
- **Life Cycles:** Identify the life cycles of different plants and animals commonly found on farms, such as chickens or crops.

Apple Blossoms:

- **Interdependency in Nature:** Explore plant-pollinator relationships, such as bees and apple blossoms.
- **Diversity in Living Things:** Discuss how apple trees depend on bees and other animals for pollination.

Grade 3

Baby Animals:

- **Life Science - Life Cycles and Survival:** Explore how plants and animals, like those on farms, grow, reproduce, and meet their needs.
- **Interactions and Ecosystems:** Study how living organisms in a farm setting interact with each other and their environment for survival.

Apple Blossoms:

- **Plant Structure and Function:** Investigate the role of different plant parts, such as roots, stems, leaves, and flowers, and their role in the apple tree's growth.
- **Interactions with the Environment:** Discuss how each part of the apple blossom is important for fruit production.

Grade 4

Baby Animals:

- **Earth and Life Science - Living Organisms and Environment:** Explain how environmental factors affect the growth and health of plants and animals on a farm.
- **Ecosystem Relationships:** Discuss the impact of human activities, like farming, on natural ecosystems.

Apple Blossoms:

- **Plant Reproduction and Pollination:** Explore the process of pollination in apple blossoms and its role in reproduction.
- **Ecosystems and Plant Roles:** Analyze the role of apple trees within an ecosystem, focusing on how they support animals, produce oxygen, and contribute to the food chain.

Grade 5

Baby Animals:

- **Earth and Space Science - Ecosystem Dynamics:** Examine the role of various organisms in a farm ecosystem, including how they contribute to the food web.
- **Environmental Impact and Conservation:** Investigate sustainable farming practices that support environmental health and prevent resource depletion.

Apple Blossoms:

Photosynthesis and Energy Flow: Learn about the photosynthesis process, understanding how apple trees use sunlight to make food and produce oxygen.

- **Environmental Impact and Adaptations:** Study how apple trees have specific adaptations that allow them to survive in certain climates and contribute to the ecosystem.