

Fascinated by Fall - Excerpt

From



Trivia quiz: The Truth about Johnny Appleseed

In the autumn our thoughts may turn to apples – cider and pie, and biting into them while bobbing. We really can thank Johnny Appleseed for the popularity of apple orchards in the U.S., but what you may have learned about him in school is due for an update.

Jonathan Chapman, who actually was a legend in his own time, was born September 26, 1774, and lived almost to 70.



A wooden basket filled with several green apples and autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The basket is tilted, and the apples are spilling out. The background is a plain white surface.

Trivia quiz: The Truth about Johnny Appleseed

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Trivia quiz: The Truth about Johnny Appleseed

1. Sweet apple trees were one of the delights that early European settlers were pleased to find when they arrived in North America.

True ____

False ____



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True

False X



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1. False. Crab apples had existed in North America before the arrival of European settlers, but not the sweet varieties we know today. Early settlers brought seeds and seedlings of the popular fruit to both North and South America.



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2. What most people don't realize is that an apple tree grown from a seed bears little resemblance to its parent. If you grew 100 apple trees from the seeds of the same tree, the new apple trees would all be different.

True ____

False ____



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2. What most people don't realize is that an apple tree grown from a seed bears little resemblance to its parent. If you grew 100 apple trees from the seeds of the same tree, the new apple trees would all be different.

True X

False ____

– which is part of the reason there are thousands of varieties of apples.





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3. The fruit grown from seeds tends to be very sour or bitter. To get edible apples, you graft trees, producing a clone of a tree that you know bears tasty fruit, rather than plant from seeds.

True ____

False ____



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True X

False



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3. True. In addition, trees that were grown from seedlings ("pippins") prospered in New England, especially after the colonists imported honeybees to improve pollination

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4. Early settlers didn't mind apple orchards with sour apples because in the 1700s and 1800s, most apples were grown not for eating but for making hard (alcoholic) cider. (In most countries, cider is *assumed* to be alcoholic; in the U.S., only hard cider is.)

True ____ False ____



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4. Early settlers didn't mind apple orchards with sour apples because in the 1700s and 1800s, most apples were grown not for eating but for making hard (alcoholic) cider. (In most countries, cider is *assumed* to be alcoholic; in the U.S., only hard cider is.)

True X False



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4. True. Cider was safer, tastier, and easier to make than corn liquor. In rural areas, cider took the place not only of wine and beer, but also of coffee, juice, even water. Part of the problem was a lack of refrigeration. Plain fruit juice soon spoiled; apple juice allowed to ferment into about 5% alcohol didn't.





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5. Johnny Appleseed scattered apple seeds all over what is now Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Some of the resulting trees are still alive.

True ____

False ____



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True

False X



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5. False; Johnny Appleseed planted nurseries rather than scattering seeds; he built fences around them to protect them from livestock, left the nurseries in the care of a neighbor who sold trees on shares, and returned every year or two to tend the nursery. But yes, some of those trees are still alive.

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6. The trees that resulted from his planting increased the real estate value of the frontier land he visited.

True ____ False ____

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True X False



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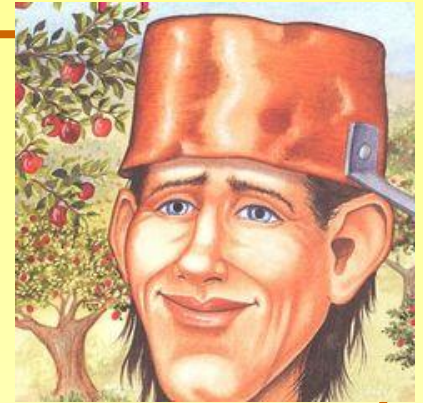
6. True; In some parts of the settlement of the Midwest, settlers were required by law to plant orchards of apples and pears in order to uphold the right to the claimed land. The land with Johnny Appleseed's pre-planted orchards made for popular real estate.

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Johnny Appleseed was an eccentric. While it can be hard to separate fact from fiction, it does seem true that he wore a tin kettle on his head which served as a hat and a cooking pot. Plus, he went barefoot throughout the year and generally wore a coffee sack with holes for his arms and legs.



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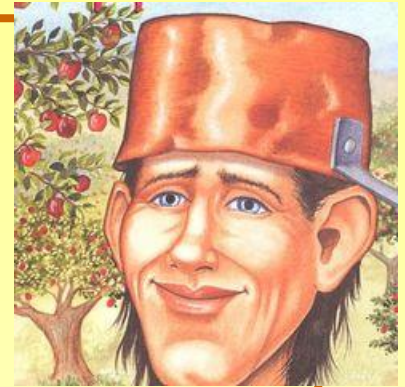
7. Which one of the following statements isn't true?
- a. He was a friend to all Indians and was never harmed by them. ____
 - b. When hunting with the Indians, he honored the animals he was sacrificing for his food. ____
 - c. Once he began his planting life, he never had a fixed home and usually slept beside a campfire outdoors or on the floor of a settler's cabin, where he exchanged stories and preaching for shelter and a meal. ____

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7. b. is false. Johnny Appleseed was a vegetarian who believed in respecting all insect and animal life. Here's one story told about him: One cool autumnal night, while lying by his camp-fire in the woods, he observed that the mosquitoes flew in the blaze and were burned. Johnny filled his tin pot with water, quenched the fire, and afterwards remarked, "God forbid that I should build a fire for my comfort, that should be the means of destroying any of his creatures."

Trivia quiz: The Truth about Johnny Appleseed

8. In the U.S., the popularity of eating apples as a fruit didn't really take off until the early 1900s when the Women's Christian Temperance Union message about the "evils of alcohol" gained ground. "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" was an old adage, promoted by apple growers fearful that Prohibition would cut their sales.

(Variation: "To eat an apple before going to bed, will make the doctor beg his bread.")

True ____

False ____



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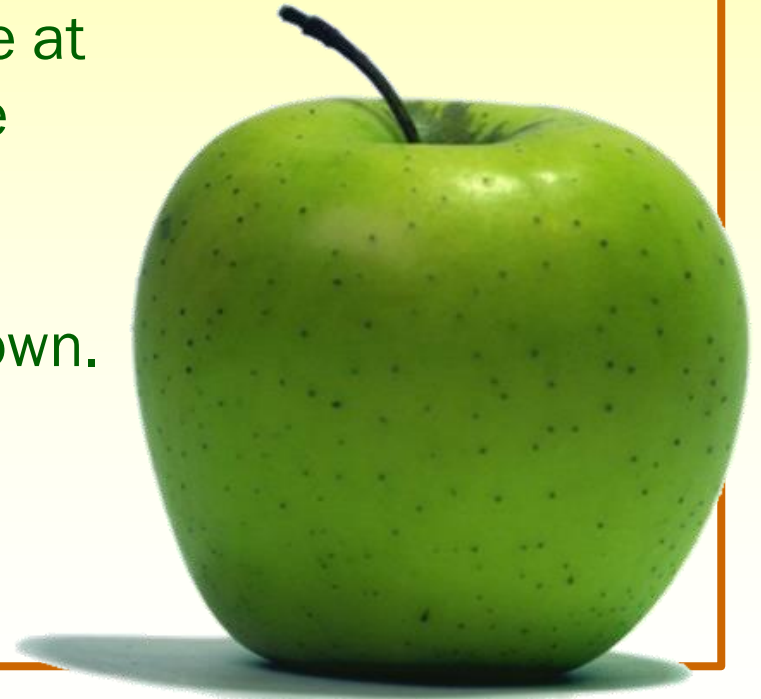
True X

False _____



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8. True, but that doesn't mean the joys of fresh apples – and applesauce and apple pies – haven't long been known. Archeologists have found evidence that humans have been enjoying apples since at least 6500 B.C. Apples were the favorite fruit of ancient Greeks and Romans; thus, how to grow sweet apples has long been known.





Final words

“I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

I hope this slide show excerpt has helped you make new connections in your brain and delightful connections sharing it with others.

For more information or more slide shows, contact Kathy Laenhue at Kathy@WiserNow.com

And please review my websites: www.WiserNow.com and www.CreatingDelight.com

