Here at Brogdale Collections, the home of the National Fruit Collection we have 2,131 different kinds of apples growing in our orchards. Why not have a go at growing your own apple pip into an apple tree. In spring the trees make their blossom, then the bees come and pollinate them and from then with the help of the sun, rain and goodness from the earth, the blossom grows into apples.

Our apples are delicious. They come in all different sizes, shapes, colours and flavours. At Brogdale we think that everyone should have a go at growing an apple so we have started a campaign to get everyone to ‘give it a grow’ and grow an apple pip from inside the apple you eat into a tree.

It is good fun, easy to do, costs almost nothing and is the perfect way to learn about growing.

**Stage 1 - January and February.**

First eat your apple but not the pips!
Dry all the pips out on a paper towel in a warm place.

Then make the paper towel damp, put it inside a sandwich bag at the back of the fridge, leaving it open just a little to let the air in and leave until you see the seeds crack and a root appear.
Check on the towel every week or so to make sure it’s moist. It will take about 6 weeks.

**Stage 2 - March - Plant a pip**

At the end of 6 weeks, some of the seeds may have started to sprout already.
After a minimum of 6 weeks in a moist paper towel in the fridge, you can plant apple seeds just as you would any other seed. Best to start them off in a pot. They need light and to be kept warm and damp.
Then carefully plant the seed inside an empty toilet roll filled with compost or soil 5 cm under the top surface.

Put it in a warm, sunny spot. Keep it watered and watch it grow.
Share your pictures of your mini trees planting and inspire others to do the same.
See the Brogdale Collections Grow a Pip Campaign timetable to see how you can take part and share your growing.

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**Teaching Notes:**

**Preparing apple seeds for planting:**

Apple seeds need cold to break their sleep or dormancy. The seeds need to be kept under moist refrigeration for at least 6 weeks before they’re planted.
Place apple seeds in a moist paper towel, and then put that paper towel inside a plastic bag, leaving it open just a crack for air exchange.
Store it in the back of the fridge,

If you buy local apples late in the season, months after harvest, they’ve already been kept under refrigeration for many months. When you cut long stored local apples open, there’s a chance that some of the seeds may have already started to germinate inside the apple. Not enough cold means they will not germinate and start to grow.

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**You will need:**

- An apple
- Compost/soil
- Loo roll inside or pot
- Paper towel
- Plastic bag
**February - Picking your Pip**
Pick and Prepare a Pip
Eat an apple and collect a pip.
You need at least 5 pip or seeds … the more the merrier.
Don’t forget that what you grow will be a mystery apple tree. The pip from your favourite apple will not grow to be exactly the same but a new kind of apple. You can give it a new name.

**March - Plant a Pip**
Planting time : At the end of 6 weeks, you can plant your apple seeds. Some of the seeds may have started to sprout already.
After a minimum of 6 weeks in a moist paper towel in the fridge, you can plant apple seeds just as you would any other seed. Best to start them off in a pot. They need light and to be kept warm and damp.
If you don’t have a pot then use the inner of a loo roll or kitchen roll. You can use any kind of compost or garden soil to get your tree started.

**April - Show your Shoots**
Share pictures of your shoots.
You should be able to see some small shoots of your tree above the soil. Share your pictures with Brogdale Collections and your tree growing friends.
You need to look after your tree by keeping it warm and damp and in the light to help it to grow.

**May - Shoot watch**
Measure the length of your new shoot each week and see how quickly it grows.
Shoots will grow towards the light. They may grow very long if it’s quite dark. Share the lengths of your shoots.

**June - Lookout for leaves**
When did your first leaf appear?
The leaves appear quite quickly once the shoot grows as the leaves make the food for the tree. When did your first leaf appear and how many have you got now? Are they all the same size and colour? What shape are they? Explore your leaves and share what you discover.

**July - Warm and watered**
How green is my tree? Compare your tree colours.
How many shades of green can you find. Make a colour chard to show your different colours and share it with us.

**August - Leaf Count**
How many leaves has your tree got?
Investigate your tree’s leaves. Do all the leaves look the same? Are they the same shape and colour? Are they all on the same side of the tree trunk or stem? How they fixed onto the tree. Are they glued on? Is the top and the underneath the same? Share what you find out and see if others have found the same.

**September - How tall is my tree**
Measure your tree and share how tall it is.
How has your tree grown? Has the sized changed a lot since the first shoot you measured?
How has it changed.

**October - Tell us about your tree**
Come along to our apple events and show us your tree. Share pictures of your tree. Collect some seed from your favourite apple and have a go grow to grow a new apple tree.

**November - Losing Leaves**
It’s coming of for the end of the first year for your new tree. At this time of year your tree will be getting ready for it’s winter sleep. It will lose it’s leaves for winter to save energy and keep it safe. Watch out for when your tree loses its leaves. What was the weather or the temperature when this happened? Did all the leaves fall at the same time on the same day? Did it lose big or small ones first or top or bottom ones? Tell us your Losing leaf investigation stories.

**December - Trimming your tree**
In December it is traditional to Wassail in apple orchards to celebrate your apple trees and the fruit they give us. It’s like a Christmas party. Why not decorate your mini apple tree to celebrate your growing year. You can use anything you like but make sure its dry and it’s not going to damage your small tree and that you can easily remove it afterwards. A star made of twigs or some greenery would be ideal.