How Apples Grow

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

Apples grow on trees. A young apple tree takes years to grow its first apples. A full-size tree can take up to 8 years. A small, or dwarf, tree can start in 2 or 3 years.

In spring, the tree is covered in flowers called blossoms. Bees and flies visit them and carry pollen from the flowers of one apple tree to another. An apple tree needs pollen from a different kind of apple tree, or from a crabapple, to make apples. That tree has to be close by, within about 100 feet.

After the blossoms get pollen, apples begin to grow. They ripen in late summer and fall. On a red apple, look at the skin around the red. When it turns from green to greenish-yellow, the apple is starting to ripen.

Each apple has seeds in its core. But a seed will not grow the same apple again, because every apple seed is different.

1. **How long can a full-size apple tree take to grow its first apples?**

2. **Which animals carry pollen from one apple tree to another?**

3. **Why does an apple tree need another apple tree nearby?**

4. **If you planted a seed from your apple, would you get the same apples? Why?**

Answer key

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1. How long can a full-size apple tree take to grow its first apples?
   Up to 8 years.

2. Which animals carry pollen from one apple tree to another?
   Bees and flies.

3. Why does an apple tree need another apple tree nearby?
   It needs pollen from a different kind of apple tree to make apples, and the bees and flies have to carry it there.

4. If you planted a seed from your apple, would you get the same apples? Why?
   Sample answer: no, because every apple seed is different, so the new tree would grow a different kind of apple.