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## Johnny Appleseed



This is a true story of a man who lived about two hundred and thirty-five years ago. That was the time when people were just settling down in America. There were no houses or villages. John Chapman played a significant role in helping these early settlers clear grounds and build houses. He also encouraged them to plant apple trees. But people today remember this man as Johnny Appleseed. How did John Chapman become Johnny Appleseed?

John Chapman was born on 26 September 1774 in Massachusetts, USA. He was a brave and kind man. He spent most of his time outdoors walking in the forests, observing and admiring animals, plants and wild flowers.

One day, after a long nature **ramble**, he rested under a tree. The hot sun warmed his feet and the green grass **tickled** his toes. He took out an apple from his bag. He finished eating the apple but sat staring at the brown apple seeds in his palm. He thought that if he could collect enough of these seeds and plant them all over, then the whole country would become green with apple trees. In fact, Johnny did just that. He collected apple seeds from wherever possible and planted them wherever he found space. Soon the seeds he had sown grew into big apple trees and in time, were **laden** with fruits.



John lived in the eastern part of America, where many people had already settled. There were quite a few settlements in this part; so many people were migrating to the west which was not yet inhabited. These people wanted to begin a new life in a different part of this new country. In the west, there were neither houses nor villages.

There were no proper roads—only dirt tracks used by the native Indians. The new settlers travelled with their belongings in closed carriages, drawn by horses.

They trudged through dense forests. The journey was long and dangerous. John Chapman also travelled with them, not in a horse-drawn carriage but on foot. In those days people had to carry

weapons to protect themselves from wild animals and enemies. But John did not carry any weapon with him. He carried only a bag on his back. His bag was filled with apple seeds. Instead of a hat, he wore a frying pan on his head. Johnny planted apple seeds all along the route and gave little bags of apple seeds to everyone he met. Slowly people recognized him as the man with the apple seeds and started calling him Johnny Appleseed and that is the name by which he is still remembered.



During his journey Johnny often spent a few weeks helping people to clear land and construct log cabins, and before moving on he would sow hundreds of apple seeds. Everyone loved Johnny, especially children. When he got tired of planting apple seeds, he would sit down to rest under a tree and the children would immediately surround him. They loved to listen to the stories he narrated.

It was a beautiful sight to watch Johnny narrating his tales of adventure and children listening to him in **rapt attention**.

Johnny always travelled alone on foot. He slept on the forest floor or near a stream under the open sky. On his way he met wolves, jackals, deer and birds but he was never attacked by these animals. He had a way of making friends with animals.

One day he was eating his lunch in the forest, when he suddenly heard loud roars from the nearby **thicket**. He saw three bear cubs come out of the thicket. After a while the mother bear also **emerged** from the thicket but she soon left on seeing her cubs happily playing with Johnny. She felt assured that her cubs were safe in Johnny's company!

Johnny did not like people fighting amongst themselves. He tried to establish peace between the new **settlers** and the native Indians. Both the new settlers and the **natives** loved and respected him.

Johnny believed that all human beings should live together like brothers, at peace and in harmony with Nature.

Many years passed. Johnny by now had travelled far and wide, and had planted thousands and thousands of apple trees. He was always delighted to see the trees he had helped plant, laden with fruits. One year after a **severe** winter, the ground was covered with snow, and though it was early spring, not a single new leaf **sprouted** from the tree. This saddened Johnny so much that he did not eat or sleep well. He was afraid that his apple trees would die. Soon he was taken ill. He ran a high fever for some days. The people around him however took good care of him and one morning after many days he woke up to see sunlight. He knew summer had set in at last! He felt better and was soon on his feet spending time with his beloved trees and animals.

Johnny lived to be a very old man and was always very happy to visit his old friends and the trees that he had planted, and he felt overjoyed to see them both **flourishing!** People in America believe that some of the trees that he planted still survive, and though their **barks** have deep **furrows**, they still bear fruit. His hard work, total **dedication** and selfless service to both humans and the environment have made him a legend.« He cleared shrubs but planted many trees. Truly, lessons in **conservation** began with Johnny Appleseed!

## Word-Web

- **ramble** : a long walk for pleasure
- **tickle** : to cause itching sensation
- **rapt attention** : with complete attention
- **thicket** : a group of thick bushes growing closely together
- **emerged** : came out to be seen
- **settlers** : persons who go to live in a new country or region
- **natives** : original inhabitants of a country or region (the term is considered rude now)
- **sprout** : to grow
- **flourishing** : being healthy and happy
- **dedication** : sacrifice to give earnestly
- **furrows** : grooves or lines on the trunk of a tree
- **laden** : heavily loaded
- **trudged** : walked in a tired manner
- **severe** : harsh
- **barks** : skin of trees
- **conservation** : the act of supervision



## Comprehension

### » Multi-Menu

Multiple Choice Questions

#### A. Tick against the correct answers.

1. John Chapman spent most of his time \_\_\_\_\_ walking in the forests.  
 (a) indoors  (b) outdoors  (c) door to door
2. John lived in the \_\_\_\_\_ of America where many people had already settled.  
 (a) southern part  (b) western part  (c) eastern part
3. In those days, people had to carry \_\_\_\_\_ to protect themselves from wild animals.  
 (a) apples  (b) weapons  (c) luggage
4. John tried to establish peace between the new \_\_\_\_\_ and the native Indians.  
 (a) settlers  (b) natives  (c) nationals
5. John was \_\_\_\_\_ to see the trees he had planted, laden with fruits.  
 (a) proud  (b) delighted  (c) worried

## » Pick and Fill

### B. Fill in the blanks of these sentences with correct words from the box.

weapon      America      migrating      animals      apple seeds

1. John collected \_\_\_\_\_ from wherever possible and planted them.
2. Many people were \_\_\_\_\_ to the west which was not yet inhabited.
3. John did not carry any \_\_\_\_\_ with him.
4. John had a way of making friends with \_\_\_\_\_.
5. People in \_\_\_\_\_ believe that some of the trees that he planted still survive.

### C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.

1. There were a large number of settlements in the eastern part of America.
2. The new settlers travelled with their belongings in closed carriages.
3. Instead of a hat, Johnny wore a frying pan on his head.
4. Slowly people recognized him as the man with the mango seeds.
5. Truly, lessons in conservation began with Johnny Appleseed.

## » Matching-Mania

### D. Match the adjectives in Column A with correct nouns in Column B.

#### Column A

1. brown •
2. native •
3. wild •
4. beautiful •
5. early •

#### Column B

- (a) animals and enemies
- (b) sights
- (c) spring
- (d) apple seeds
- (e) Indians



## » Question-Queue (Short)

### E. Answer each of the followings questions in one or two sentences.

1. When and where was John Chapman born?
2. What did Johnny collect from everywhere?
3. How did the new settlers travel when there were no proper roads?
4. Why did people carry weapons with them in those days?
5. What do people in America believe?

## » Question-Queue (Long)

### F. Answer each of the following questions in detail.

1. Johnny loved to be outdoors. Pick out two examples from the lesson to support your answer.
2. How did John Chapman come to be known as Johnny Appleseed?
3. What happened one day when Johnny was eating his lunch in the forest?
4. 'He was afraid that his apple trees would die. Soon he was taken ill. He ran a high fever for some days.' What does this accident show about Johnny?
5. What has made Johnny a legend?



## Vocabulary

### » Johnny's Qualities

- ▶ Here are some words that describe Johnny. Place these words against the appropriate extracts given in the table.

nature-lover	far-sighted	animal-lover	simple	brave	kind
adventurous	peace-loving	courageous	friendly	helpful	gentle

Extract	Johnny's qualities
(a) He thought that if he could collect enough of these seeds and plant them all over, then the whole country would become green with apple trees.	
(b) John Chapman also travelled with them, not in a horse-drawn carriage but on foot.	
(c) Johnny did not like people fighting amongst themselves. He tried to establish peace between the new settlers and the native Indians.	
(d) In those days, people had to carry weapons to protect themselves from wild animals and enemies. But John did not carry any weapon with him. He carried only a bag on his back.	
(e) On his way, he met wolves, jackals, deer and birds but he was never attacked by these animals.	
(f) During his journey, Johnny would often spend a few weeks helping people to clear land and construct log cabins.	



### Think-n-Thrive

- Why should we plant more and more trees? How are they useful to living beings and the environment? Why should we not cut them?



## Grammar-Grip

### » Kinds of Sentences

▶ There are different kinds of sentences. You have studied them in Class 7. Now, identify the following sentences as 'affirmative', 'interrogative' or 'exclamatory'.

1. But, we were grateful to be alive. affirmative
2. How could we ever thank that person? \_\_\_\_\_
3. During those years, we rebuilt our apartment and shop, then sold them. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you remember me telling you about a fire at the tailoring shop? \_\_\_\_\_
5. You're on fire! \_\_\_\_\_
6. Hurry, Hurry! \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who was the man? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Ram Naresh turned to my husband. \_\_\_\_\_
9. They stood up facing each other and started shaking each other's hands and hugging.  
\_\_\_\_\_

▶ Frame different kinds of sentences as indicated. Read your sentences aloud to your class.

1. (E.g.) Interrogative: Why don't we have internet facilities in schools? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Affirmative: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Affirmative: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

### » Reading Skills

▶ Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The word 'chocolate' comes from the two Mayan words meaning 'sour water'.

Chocolate was created by the Mesoamerican civilization, from cocoa beans, and cultivated by pre-Columbian civilizations such as the Maya and Aztec. They used it as a basic component in a variety of sauces and beverages. Aztecs also ground the beans to make a rich beverage. Historians do not know how long the Aztecs and the Mayans have been harvesting cocoa beans, but they do know that they harvested them before Columbus arrived.

The cocoa beans were grounded and mixed with water to produce a variety of beverages, both sweet and bitter, which were reserved for only the highest noblemen and clerics of the Mesoamerican world.

Chocolate is made from the fermented, roasted and ground beans taken from the pod of the tropical cocoa tree, Theobromo cocoa, which was native to Central America and Mexico, but is now cultivated throughout the tropics. The beans have an intensely flavoured bitter taste. Early Americans used the seeds to make the treat known as 'hot chocolate' today.

1. Which civilizations created chocolate and how?
2. What do historians know about the time when cocoa beans were being harvested by the Aztecs and the Mayans?
3. How did the Aztecs and Mayans use the cocoa beans?
4. How were varieties of beverages prepared?
5. What is used to make chocolates and how are they made?
6. Find out antonyms of the following words:  
(i) native \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) highest \_\_\_\_\_

### » Fun to write

Imagine you are one of the children Johnny told his stories to. Write a letter to your friend in another state describing about this wonderful man who had both animal and human friends. Tell him about how Johnny helped you sowing the seeds in your garden, and the animals you saw him playing with.

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Your loving friend

\_\_\_\_\_