DESCRIPTION

Digitally remastered animated version of the life of John Chapman (1774-1845), more familiarly known as Johnny Appleseed. Johnny wanted to be a pioneer and contribute to the United States' expansion, so he planted apple trees throughout the Midwest. This practical legacy insured his place in American history and folklore. Dennis Day voices all the characters.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Language Arts–Reading

• Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
  • Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of literary passages and texts (e.g., fiction, nonfiction, myths, poems, fantasies, biographies, autobiographies, science fiction, tall tales, supernatural tales) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 3.)
  • Benchmark: Knows the defining characteristics of a variety of literary forms and genres (e.g., fiction, nonfiction, myths, poems, fantasies, biographies, autobiographies, science fiction, tall tales, supernatural tales) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

Subject Area: Grades K–4 History–The History of People of Many Cultures Around the World

• Standard: Understands the folklore and other cultural contributions from various regions of the United States and how they helped to form a national heritage
  • Benchmark: Understands how stories, legends, songs, ballads, games, and tall tales describe the environment, lifestyles, beliefs, and struggles of people in various regions of the country (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To illustrate the story of Johnny Appleseed.
2. To explore elements of tall tales.
3. To promote the reading of children’s literature.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

American tall tales are unique in the world of literature for the way in which humor and exaggeration are used to recount the exploits of legendary heroes. This exaggerated form of storytelling began in the 1800s as a way for early American settlers to bolster the pioneer spirit that was needed to face the dangers of the wilderness.

Tall tales include the traditional story elements of folktales: characters, setting, and plot. Some tall tale characters are real people whose exploits have been embellished by storytellers. Johnny Appleseed (real name: John Chapman) lived during the early 1800s. His adventures were expanded upon through the oral storytelling of his life. Other tall tale characters are pure fiction. Most tall tales use the American frontier as the setting and most take place during the time period of American westward expansion.

All tall tales use humor, exaggeration, and acts of bravery as elements of the plot to explain how the main characters confronted the uncertainty of exploring the North American wilderness. Tall tales invited new retellings, with each narrator freely expanding favorite parts and incorporating his unique sense of humor.

VOCABULARY

1. apple seed
2. apple tree
3. blossoms
4. courage
5. faith
6. fertile
7. friend
8. frontier
9. guardian angel
10. hope
11. jubilee
12. pioneer
13. plant
14. shadow
15. soil
16. survive
17. varmints
18. wagons
19. west
20. wilderness

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Discuss life during the frontier times. Consider what daily life was like and the hazards that people faced.
2. Read at least one of the following book versions about Johnny Appleseed. Fill out the “Elements of a Tall Tale” chart. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC.) Discuss the elements.
   b. *Johnny Appleseed* by Steven Kellogg.
   c. *Johnny Appleseed* by Reeve Lindbergh.
   d. *American Tall Tales* by Mary Pope Osborne.
   e. *American Tall Tales* by Adrien Stoutenberg.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Where did Johnny live at the beginning of the program? What did he do? Why was he carefree?
2. What did Johnny see go by his apple farm? Where were the wagons going?
3. Who visited Johnny and encouraged him to go west? Why did Johnny say he couldn’t go west?
4. What did Johnny take with him when he left? Who did he go with?
5. Where did Johnny stop traveling? Who didn’t like human beings and wanted Johnny to leave? How did Johnny become a friend to the animals?
6. What did Johnny do over the next 40 years?
7. Explain how Johnny’s planting of apple trees helped the pioneers.
8. How did Johnny’s guardian angel convince Johnny that it was time to go to heaven?
9. What did the author say that fluffy white clouds really were?

Applications and Activities

1. Analyze the video of the tale by adding to the “Elements of a Tall Tale” chart. (See BEFORE SHOWING 2 and INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC.)
4. Design and make a mural that shows how John Chapman lived his life and where he traveled.
5. Write a newspaper article which might have appeared in a community newspaper where John Chapman visited.
6. Record a personal experience. Add exaggeration. Tell the story. Discuss the effect exaggeration has on the telling of the story and the response of the audience.
7. Write an original tall tale.
8. Watch the video again, pausing to write down some stanzas. Identify the rhyming words and the rhythm of the poem. Write some original rhyming lines to add to the story.
9. Explain some of the unique phrases and unusual word choices in the program. Examples include:
   a. “Something stirring in the air.”
   b. “Gawking.”
   c. “Level head.”
   d. “Certain air about him.”
   e. “Take the cake.”
   f. “Daggummit!”
   g. “The great unknown.”
   h. “Paid no heed.”
   i. “Ornery.”
10. Survey other students and school staff about their favorite apple food. Compile the results. Create a bar graph to show the results. Make the most popular item and serve samples.
11. Sample a variety of different kinds of apples. Choose a favorite and research it. Share the information learned.
12. Germinate an apple seed. Plant an apple tree seedling at the school.
CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- **John Henry** #10028
- **Paul Bunyan** #10029
- **Pecos Bill** #10030
- **The Saga of Windwagon Smith** #10036

**World Wide Web**

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **JOHN CHAPMAN - A GENTLE HERO**
  [http://www.appleseed.org/johnny.html](http://www.appleseed.org/johnny.html)
  A one-page biography of John Chapman, with a lot of detail.

- **JOHNNY APPLESEED**
  [http://www.enchantedlearning.com/school/usa/people/Appleseedindex.shtml](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/school/usa/people/Appleseedindex.shtml)
  This site geared for K-3 students includes basic biography information about John Chapman, printable Johnny Appleseed pages for coloring, math, and seasons, plus an online apple tree painting activity and a quiz. There are links to apple crafts, apple books, and an apple teaching unit.

- **TALL TALES**  [http://www.hasd.org/ges/talltale/talltale.htm](http://www.hasd.org/ges/talltale/talltale.htm)
  This site has general information about tall tales and specific information about Johnny Appleseed, along with some other famous tall tale characters. It also has a tall tale template that can be copied and pasted into a word processing program to assist students in writing an original tall tale.

- **WASHINGTON APPLES**  [http://www.bestapples.com](http://www.bestapples.com)
  This Web site includes short detailed descriptions of nine different kinds of apples, apple nutrition information, and apple recipes.

**INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC**

- **ELEMENTS OF A TALL TALE**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Plot</th>
<th>Use of Exaggeration</th>
<th>Use of Exaggeration</th>
<th>Phenomena Explained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Version</td>
<td>Video Version</td>
<td>Book Version</td>
<td>Book Version</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Column 1</td>
<td>Column 2</td>
<td>Column 3</td>
<td>Column 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions: List the elements of book versions in Column 1 and Column 2, and list the elements of the video version in Column 3.

**Elements of a Tall Tale**

#10034 Legend of Johnny Appleseed