

## ***Grow an Apple Fungus***

Students can grow an apple mold to simulate a fungus disease that might attack an apple tree. (A mold is not a fungus disease which would attack an apple tree, but it is an example of a fungus for students to observe.)

Give each student a slice of apple and a Ziploc bag. Let students wet their apple slices, seal them in the bags, and place them in a warm spot for a week or until there are signs of molding or rotting.

Next, ask students to pretend that they are apple growers and that this is a fungus disease that is attacking their orchards. Ask them to make up a name for the disease. Make a list on the chalkboard of the names of some actual fungus diseases, such as:

apple crown rot  
bitter rot  
blotch rot  
blue mold rot  
apple scab  
apple powdery mildew  
cedar apple rust fungus

Ask students to draw realistic pictures of the mold or rot that is on their apple slices and to label the pictures with the names that they made up. Then have them write how they, as apple growers, intend to get rid of the fungus diseases in their orchards. Allow time for students to discuss their ideas.

