

Farm to School

MCINTOSH APPLES

Background

The McIntosh apple was cultivated on a farm in Ontario, Canada in the early 1800s and is now the national apple of Canada.

Fun Fact

It's thought that this variety originated by grafting a small McIntosh branch onto an older apple tree. Grafting means to take a twig from one tree and meld it with an existing healthy tree.



Growing and Harvest



- Depending on how old an apple tree is, it could produce 300-800 apples (the older the tree, the more apples it will grow!)
- Frecon Farms in Pennsylvania harvests their McIntosh in late September and then stores them in a special refrigerator with all the other apples through the fall

Your McIntosh Apples today were grown by:

Frecon Farms
in Boyertown, PA



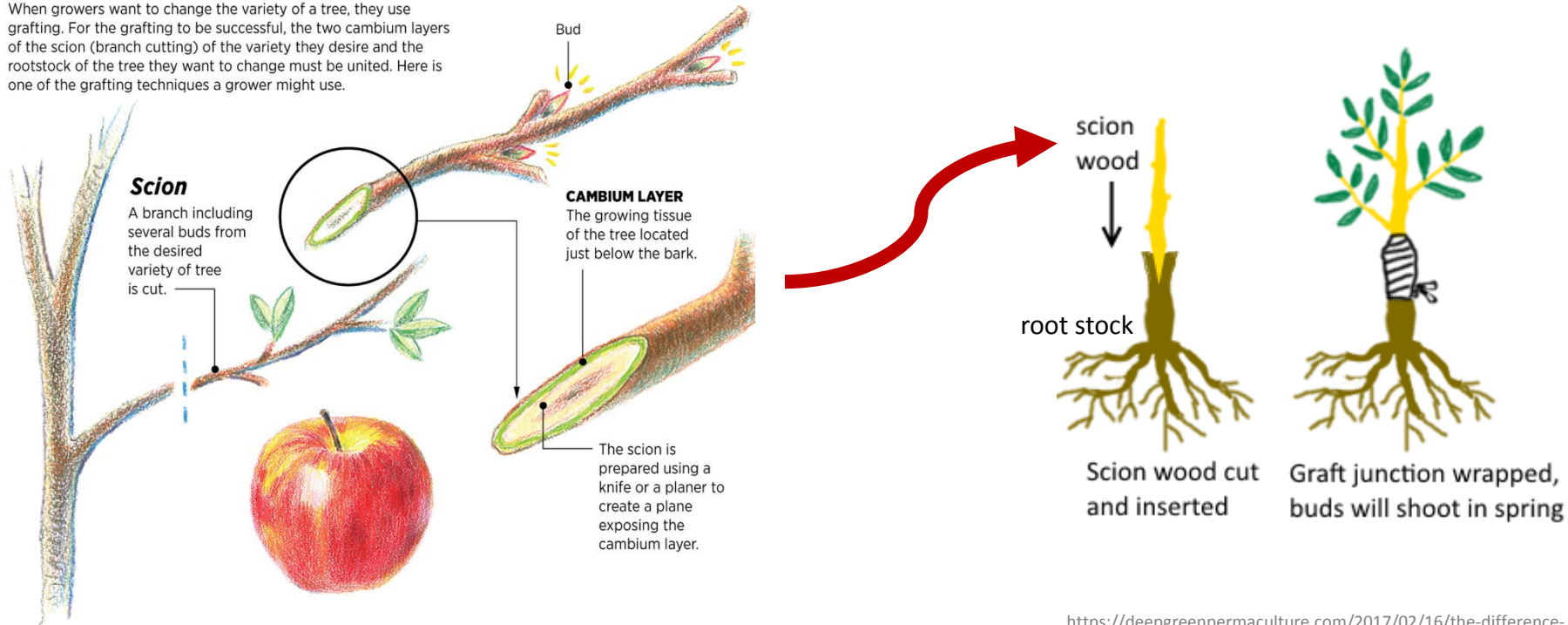
Activities!

Below is a diagram of how grafting is used to attach one variety of apple onto the roots of another apple tree. This is how McIntosh apples were created in the early 1800s!

Writing Activity: Consider what apple variety you would like to grow. Write 2-3 sentences about that apple and how you would grow it.



When growers want to change the variety of a tree, they use grafting. For the grafting to be successful, the two cambium layers of the scion (branch cutting) of the variety they desire and the rootstock of the tree they want to change must be united. Here is one of the grafting techniques a grower might use.



Source: Washington State University Extension

<https://deepgreenpermaculture.com/2017/02/16/the-difference-between-seedling-grafted-and-cutting-grown-fruit-trees/>