

## **Track 1: Caring for Orchard Trees Through the Seasons**

### **Featured Lessons**

- Fall Fruit Sorting and Outdoor Classroom Introduction•
- Adopting a Class Tree and Creating an Orchard Through the Seasons Book•
  - Orchard Tree Dormancy: Helping Our Orchard Trees Survive the Winter•
  - Spring Branches, Pruning and Cut Branch Study•
  - Adopting a Bud in Spring•

### **Overview**

In this track, the class will adopt and become experts about one of the orchard trees. In every season of the school year, they will revisit the tree to observe and document the changes they see and to assist with tree maintenance and hands on stewardship to keep the tree healthy and productive. In the fall, students will help to harvest fruit and pick up dropped fruit to guard against disease and predatory insects. In winter they will help to protect the trees against predators and exposure, and encourage healthy growth through pruning and mulching. In spring students will wake up the trees from the winter dormancy and will adopt a tree bud, watching it grow into blossom or leaf and on to become a fruit (or help make energy for a fruit) to be picked the following fall!

### **Encouraged Lessons from Other Tracks**

*Leaves, Trunks and Stems, and Roots* from the Parts of a Tree track  
*Pollination and Fruit and Deadheads* in the Plant Life Cycle track

#### Other Hands-on Stewardship Topics Mentioned in the Curriculum:

Keeping a Classroom Worm Bin to Create Rich Soil for Orchard Plants and Trees  
Leaf Raking  
Installing Maggot Traps  
Planting an Garden to Attract Beneficial Insects

### **Age Range for Lessons**

See individual lessons for age appropriate levels.

