SUSTAINABILITY RAINBOW:



CENTRAL THEMES OF SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY THEME:	PICKING AN APPLE: CONSIDERATIONS THROUGH A SUSTAINABILITY LENS:
INTERCONNECTEDNESS: Natural and built world	Who planted the apple tree? What resources did the tree need to grow? Who picked the apple?
SYSTEMS THINKING: Big picture, change over time, cause and effect	Where did the pesticides come from? Did contaminated runoff enter the water system? Did it reach the ocean? The fish we eat?
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: Students change agents, compassionate living	Where did the apple come from? What is the soil like there? Is there anything I can do to improve the system?
CYCLES: Climate and seasons, water cycles, health and nutrition, biodiversity	How does the water run through the orchard? Where do the nutrients in the soils come from? Which insects help pollinate the apples?
IMPORTANCE OF PLACE: Community identity, natural history, human history	When are apples ready to be picked in my area? Does the farmer support local businesses for supplies and services? Who owns the orchard?
RESPECT FOR LIMITS: Conservation, balance of systems, finite natural resources	How much natural forest or prairie land was used to develop the orchard? How much petroleum was used to transport the apple?
SOCIAL JUSTICE: Equity, meeting the needs of all people	How are workers protected from pesticides and other poisons? Do they earn a living wage? Is gender equity honored?

Adapted by The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation with permission Lori Diefenbacher, Webster University, St Louis, MO and Dr. Sherie McClam, Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY