



### Bobbing for Apples

Bobbing for Apples had its roots as a divination game. A bushel of apples was dumped into a large tub, and participants would use their teeth to grab onto an apple. The winner of the game would be the first in the group to grab onto an apple. Some variations of this game took it one step further; a crunchy apple meant a happy marriage, but a rotten one meant nothing but misery. Another apple divination game was called Bite the Apple. With this game, a coin was inserted into an apple, which was hung by the stem from the ceiling. The participants would clasp their hands behind their waist and take turns trying to take a bite from the apple. The first one to sink his choppers into the apple got the apple, the coin, and a prediction of a prosperous life. For those who wanted a little more than a vague prediction of the future, there was Peel the Apple. Boys and girls peeled their apples into one continuous paring, which was then thrown over the shoulder. The letter formed by the dropped paring would be the first initial of the person they would marry.

Still yet another apple paring game involved a darkened room, a mirror, and a candle. There seems to be two variations of this spooky girl's game; both involve sitting in a mirror with a candle by one's side. In the first variation, if a girl slowly peels the apple while looking into the mirror; the face of her husband will appear. If she's destined to die before marriage, a skull would appear instead. The second variation has no skull (whew!) but the face of the husband appearing after the apple has been peeled and sectioned, with the last section being thrown over the shoulder.

A final apple divination game was called spin the apple. Strings were tied to the stems of apples, and girls would spin the apples above a roaring fire. Whoever held the apple that snapped from the string and dropped into the fire first would be the first of the group to marry.