

# the Almond Life Cycle

## VOCABULARY

**dormant:** Once the almonds are harvested and the cold weather sets in, the trees go to sleep for the winter. During that time, the trees are storing up their energy for the spring.

**bloom:** Soft pink-and-white flowers cover the almond trees during spring for the bees to come and pollinate.

**hullsplit:** Once the trees have been pollinated, the almond hull (soft green outside covering) splits open to let the almond shell naturally dry.

**harvest:** During late summer and early fall, the almonds are removed from the trees by mechanical shakers.

Producing almonds is a year-long process. Almond growers pay special attention to the almond trees to make sure they are thriving all year long. Almond trees begin their cycle in a **dormant** state, which usually lasts from November to February. Once spring arrives, the almond trees burst into **bloom** and the bees come to pollinate. From March to June, the almond kernel is developing and hardening. In July, once the kernel has grown to its full potential, it goes into the **hullsplit** phase. In late summer, the almond trees are **harvested** and transported to the processing plant to be shipped around the world.

## ACTIVITY

Use the vocabulary as a tool to fill in the missing words in the almond life cycle.

