



Yakutsk is a city in Siberia, Russia, which is located about 450 kilometers south of the Arctic Circle. This place is the coldest place on Earth, and temperatures in winter can drop to -60 degrees Celsius.

Yakutsk lies on permafrost, soil which is frozen all year round. Plants in this area had to adapt to **subzero** temperatures, and so they **decreased** their size. Most plants grow close together, and they are only a few centimeters tall.

Nikofor Ivanov grows apples which can live in the cold, and they are as big as pearls. The apples are **crunchy**, and they taste like normal apples.

Ivanov tried to pick the apples and make jam from them. It was too difficult, and it took too much time. He never picked all the apples, so he just took a handful and ate them. He gave some apples as a gift to his friends, and birds ate the soft fruit, too.

Difficult words: **subzero** (below zero), **decrease** (to get smaller), **crunchy** (when a food makes a sharp noise when you eat it).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *subzero*, *decrease* and *crunchy*
2. How cold is Yakutsk in winter?
3. How do plants grow in Yakutsk, which lies in permafrost?
4. Describe the apples that Nikofo Ivanov grow?
5. What does he do with the apples that he picks?

Express Your Thoughts

1. In your country, how cold can it be in winter?
2. Are there plants that only grow in some specific areas of your country? What?
And why do they only grow in these areas?
3. Does your country grow apples? In which part of your country?
4. Would you be able to live in one of the coldest city, Yakutsk?