

Tooty Fruity Evolution



Apples evolved in northern China. Over about 12 million years brown bears in the northern China fed on apples. Bears ate the whole fruit, including the seeds. Apple seeds passed through the gut of the bears without being broken down. The bears moved away from the fully-grown trees taking the seeds with them. When they did a poo the seeds started to grow into new apple trees. Seeds that were scattered far away from fully-grown trees had a better chance of growing, surviving and producing fruit.

Bears spent more time feeding on trees with the largest and sweetest fruit. Seeds from large sweet fruit were scattered more successfully than seeds from small bitter fruit. These seeds grew into trees carrying large sweet fruit. Over 12 million years fruit evolved to become the large sweet apples we eat today.

