

FAERIE GUARD AND GENERAL STORE

The Merridale faeries rely on the gatekeeper, Scrumpy, to defend them against danger. Scrumpy also keeps an eye on the delicacies in the General Store.

DRYADS' PLAYGROUND

The dryads are a very long-lived female faerie and they live in the trees around Merridale. They are exceptionally fun-loving and peaceful, and can disappear by stepping into a tree!

GNOME CAVERNS

The gnomes are comical and benevolent creatures that live in natural areas underground and in piles of stones. They look after our wildlife. We have many caverns here, but you have to look carefully, as they are cleverly disguised!

THE ELVES' CIDERY

The elves are responsible for the currency of the Merridale Faerie Land... Apple Cider! They also make a special type of apple juice from sleepy dust and Olde English Apple varieties that children can enjoy. They are exceedingly industrious but will occasionally take a mini vacation to visit the Dryads' Playground. They designed the Merridale Apple logo and we have borrowed it with special permission from the Elf Queen, Mariah.

HOBGOBLINS' HAVEN

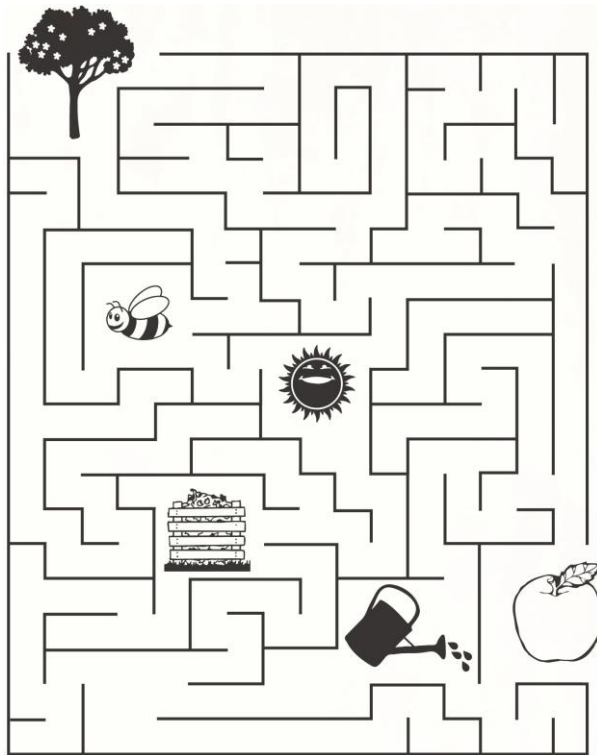
Hobgoblins can be mischievous. One of their favorite tricks is to throw apples in the waterfall pond in front of the farmhouse, and they love to hide our tools! They love cool, mossy, and damp locations.

THE DWARVES' MINING SHAFT

Did you know that dwarves are a type of faerie? Our dwarves here are miners of precious metals and stones, and these riches are traded with the industrious elves of the Cidery for... apple cider of course! They work at night, underground, and if you listen very carefully you can hear the "clink" of their tools against the stones.

Can you unscramble these words?

- pelpa _____
- odrrcah _____
- eseb _____
- reste _____
- sairefe _____
- dribs _____
- weodma _____
- nemgos _____
- vesle _____
- rirem _____
- lead _____



How the Orchard Faeries came to be...

The clan's mother is named **Merri**, and their father is known as **Dale**. Fermenting cider makes Merri merry, and Dale much prefers it to ale.

When Merri and Dale were young and carefree, they searched for a place to plant their apple trees. They needed meadows with lots of space for their whole clan, a faerie-friendly place.

Merri and Dale finally came to rest on a lush green **meadow** facing west. A pond, lovely fields and warm, sunny weather made the wandering faeries want to stay forever. Growing cider apples by the bale, they called their new orchard Merridale.

Facts about our Orchard Faeries

Just like the **birds** and **bees** that live here, the faeries are sensitive creatures. That's why Merridale never uses pesticides, herbicides or chemicals. Instead, before the sun rises, faeries take care of the **trees** by hand. We are so lucky to have them here!

Yes, it's true, the orchard is weeded by hand! Nothing is wasted when growing and processing apples! **Apple** pulp makes excellent compost to feed the trees, and they are only watered in the driest of summer months. Lots of different types of bees pollinate the trees. This is called organic farming and is best for all living creatures, including the faeries.



**Merridale's Mystical Orchard Adventure
(for children & the young at heart)**

Use the map in this brochure to search for the mystical characters living in our **orchard**, and look for the special faerie boards to help direct your way. You will no doubt find proof of **faeries, gnomes, elves**, hobgoblins, and even dryads. You may even spot a few small sightings that are not listed on this map! If you are very quiet and keep a watchful eye, you might see the faeries as you pass by. If you do, say a polite hello and don't disturb their villages with hand or shoe, for they are said to curse those who do. They are very shy!

A note to parents - Our orchard is also home to many creatures, insects, birds, and bees! The ground can be a bit uneven, the pond is deep, and sometimes "nature" stings. To ensure the safety of all, parents are required to accompany their children on this hunt.

For the big kids - You might be interested in picking up our Cellar Tour brochure as well. This walk will take you past the distillery doors and into the cellar to learn about how we make our cider. Afterwards, we welcome you at the tasting bar for guided flights of our ciders and spirits.

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