

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE POTATO 2008

ADDITIONAL WEBSITE RESOURCES (Additional activities follow)

www.vegetables.co.nz/potatoes/

(International Year of the Potato site from Horticulture New Zealand)

www.cipotato.org

(International Potato Center: an organisation that aims to reduce poverty by developing potato crops throughout the world)

www.westernpotatoes.com.au/go/consumers

(Western Potatoes: information from Western Australia on nutrition, varieties, recipes and more)

www.marketfresh.com.au

(MarketFresh: guide to fresh produce)

www.healthypotato.com

(Potatoes: Goodness Unearthed site from the US Potato Board)

www.britishpotatoes.co.uk

(British Potato Council)

www.potatoesforschools.org.uk

(Potatoes For Schools, the British Potato Council's website for teachers and students)

www.potatoes.co.za

(Potatoes South Africa)

www.realpotato.co.uk

(Potato nutrient information from The Real Potato Co.)

www.freshplaza.com/index_sector.asp?sector=8

(FreshPlaza Potatoes and Onions: news from around the globe)

ACTIVITIES

Potato varieties

Encourage the students to find out the names of as many varieties of potatoes as they can. Next to the names of the potatoes, have them list:

- what they are best for, e.g. mashing, roasting, baking, etc.
- where the particular varieties come from.

How many potatoes?

Ask the students to choose their favourite fast-food outlet. Encourage each student to use books or the internet to find out how many potatoes these places use each day in Australia. Ask them to further calculate how many potatoes the fast-food outlet would use in a month and a year.

As an extension activity, have them repeat this activity for another country or a different fast-food outlet.

Recipes

Ask the students to think about their favourite potato recipe. Encourage each student to write a procedure listing the ingredients and the steps to create their recipe. Ask them to illustrate their work and to share it with the class.

Potato promotion

Divide the students into small groups. Challenge each group to research, write and perform an advertisement promoting potatoes. Encourage the groups to include accurate facts. Ask them to make a newspaper ad, and perform a 15-second radio ad and a 30-second TV commercial. They may also like to create a web banner.

Mapping

Provide the students with a stencil of a map of the world. Encourage the class to mark on a map the place where the first potato is thought to have grown. Have them also mark down where potatoes are grown today. Provide the students with a separate map of Australia and ask them to mark on more specific areas of Australia that grow potatoes.

Irish famine

In the 19th century, Ireland was heavily reliant on only a few varieties of potato, and those types contained no resistance to the disease known as 'late blight'. When late blight destroyed the potato crop in 1845–46, widespread famine followed. An estimated one million people starved to death and over a million more were forced to migrate abroad.

Encourage the students to work in pairs to read further about the Irish famine. Ask the groups to prepare a short report and to present their findings to the class in a creative way.

Potato printing

Provide the students with potato halves and plastic knives. Ask them to carefully design a shape or pattern on the flat inside of the potato using their knife. Give the students different coloured paint and paper, then ask them to paint their potato and press it onto the paper to create a design.