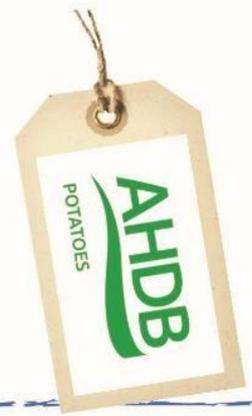


GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES



Growing Potatoes

Lesson 1: What a potato plant looks like and how potatoes grow

Children will:

- Learn what a potato plant looks like and how potatoes grow.

Introduction

Explain to the children that they will be learning about potatoes. Ask them to tell you what they already know about potatoes. Prompt them with the following questions, collecting children's answers without confirming any ideas at this time:

- What do potatoes look like?
- Where do potatoes come from?
- What do you think a potato plant looks like?
- Is a potato plant alive?
- What part of a plant does a potato come from?
- How long do you think they take to grow?
- What time of the year are they planted and harvested?
- How are potatoes cooked?

Ensure the children understand that potatoes come from a plant and that they are called tubers – a part of the plant connected to the root. Explain that potatoes are grown under the ground. Use the **Growing potatoes PowerPoint** to show the children what a potato plant looks like and how potatoes grow.

With older children, discuss the functions of the different parts of the plant, e.g. roots anchor the plant, leaves help the plant produce food – photosynthesis.

Task

Ages 5-7

Provide children with a copy of the **Potato plant Worksheet 1**. Ask the children to name all the parts of the plant. Talk about which label belongs to each part of the plant. Get the children to cut and stick the labels to the correct plant parts and colour the plant picture.

Ages 7-11

Get the children to carry out some potato research in small groups. Each group should create a potato fact sheet. This should include: what a potato plant looks like, a labelled sketch, the function of different plant parts, the life processes of the plant, e.g. growth, nutrition, movement, reproduction. It could also include information about: growing potatoes, what a potato needs in order to grow well; where in the UK potatoes are grown; types of potatoes grown in the UK; how to store potatoes; how long they take to grow.

Summary

Talk to the children about their tasks and what they have learnt. Ask some of the children to share their work.

Why not...

- Display images of different types of potato;
- Ask children to record how many times they eat potatoes over a week;
- Let the children play the potato year activity on the website below.

