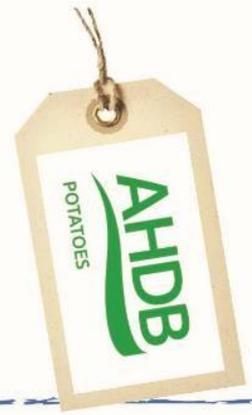


GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES



Growing Potatoes

Lesson 2: Planting activity

Children will:

- Learn how to grow their own potatoes.

This session be used to help your entry to the Grow Your Own Potatoes competition. You will need to prepare the seed potato a few weeks in advance to do the planting in this session. Information can be found on the **Planting my potato factsheet 1**, **Growing my potato factsheet 2** and **Growing tips factsheet 3**.

You will need:

- Seed potatoes and grow bags - use those provided by AHDB Potatoes if you are entering the Grow Your Own Potatoes competition.
- 1 x egg box
- Compost or soil

Optional items:

- Trowels
- Plastic gloves - hands must be washed thoroughly after handling potatoes and soil if gloves are not used
- Watering can

Introduction

Explain to the children that they will be planting a potato.

Question the children:

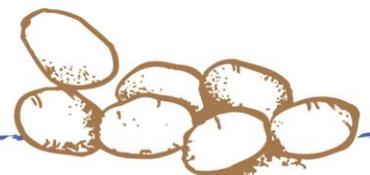
- What equipment will we need in order to plant a potato? Make a list.
- Can you explain exactly what you think we will need to do, step by step?

Look at the **Growing my potato factsheet 2** and show the children the video clips of potatoes being planted.

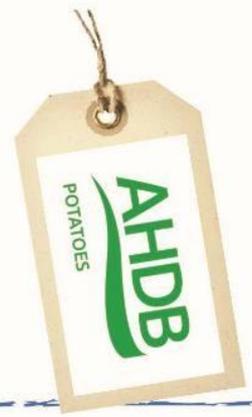
Discuss what is happening and ask the children about how they could do this when they plant their potatoes.

Summarise what the potatoes need in order to grow well.

Establish that the potato – tuber, is a seed.



GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES



Growing Potatoes

Lesson 2: Planting activity – continued.

Task

Before you begin, establish who will be doing what part of the planting.

Talk them through how they will use the equipment to plant their potatoes.

This will vary depending on whether you have a school garden in which to grow them, or whether you will be growing them in the grow bags.

Remember to use the grow bags provided by AHDB Potatoes if you wish to enter the Grow Your Own Potatoes competition. **Caution:** if you are using buckets or grow bags, these will be quite heavy when filled with soil. Put them where you want them to be before you fill them. Allow the children to plant their potatoes.

Ages 5-7

How my potato grows worksheet 2 – involves sketching how the potato plant looks at 3 week intervals.

Talk through the worksheet with the children and explain that they will fill it in every 3 weeks.

Talk about what they will be drawing over the coming weeks.

You may like them to do a sketch of the planted potato or you may wish to wait for the first 3 week interval before you begin.

With young or those who may need more support, you could enlarge the worksheet and fill it in as a class.

Ages 7-11

Create a story board/diary to record how the potato grows at regular intervals.

Children could use a digital camera or video camera to record progress.

Summary

Talk to the children about what they will have to do to care for their potatoes.

Get them to decide how they will ensure their potatoes are cared for, e.g. a watering rota.

Why not...

- Get the children to measure the height of their potatoes at regular intervals over the coming weeks and create a graph.
- Ask the children to write a set of instructions to tell someone how to grow a potato.
- Grow a different type of plant which provides food, e.g. bean, cress. Compare how this plant and your potato plant grow. Use the potatoes and other plants worksheet 3 to compare two plants.
- Look at the potato cam on the GYOP website to see other potatoes growing.

