

# The Potato Story

## Activity Sheet – Growing Your Own Potatoes

### Which potato should I grow?

There are many different types of potato that can be grown and harvested at different times of the year. Depending on when you grow your potato, your local garden centre will be able to advise you on which potatoes to grow.

### Where should I grow my potatoes?

You can grow your potatoes inside or outside. The choice is yours!

### What will my plant need?

Remember that all plants need light, water, nutrients and warmth to grow really well.

Keep these things in mind as you are deciding what question you will ask and what your test will be – which factors you will change and which you will keep the same.

### Space

The more space a plant has the better it grows because then the roots can spread out further to find water and nutrients (food – usually obtained from the soil). If you are growing your potatoes in a bucket, bear this in mind.

### Light

Plants need light to grow. Try to find a sunny spot and if growing in a bucket remember to keep turning the plant so that it will grow straight.

### Water

All plants need water to grow – but not too much! If you over-water your potato plant, it could turn mouldy. The soil should be damp, so water every 3 or 4 days – a bit more in hotter weather.

### Nutrients (Food)

All plants need food to grow and this is usually taken from the soil, which has the right amount of nutrients for your plant. If you do want to add any plant food, make sure you ask an adult and read the instructions carefully.

### Warmth

Try not to let your plant get too warm – don't put it next to a radiator or heater. The best temperature for growing plants is 10 – 15 degrees C.

### Good luck with your potato growing!

Check out the website [www.potatoesforschools.org.uk](http://www.potatoesforschools.org.uk) for extra tips and suggestions about how to grow your own potatoes in the classroom.

Remember that if you grow a healthy plant, you may get as many as 15 or 20 potatoes from just one seed potato!

### Remember:

Make sure you wear gloves when handling your potato and wash your hands well afterwards.