



UNIT 2: PROCESSING

Quick Lesson:

The Adventures of Cob's Potatoes

Grade level: Primary

Interest Approach

Do you remember the exploding cheeseburger? There were lots of processed farm products in that cheeseburger. What do you like to eat with your cheeseburger?

Wait for answers. Respond to each, but wait for the answer, "French fries!"

Great! Where do French fries come from? Potatoes! Right! Are French fries a raw product, like lettuce, or are they processed as well?

Let's find out. As a matter of fact let's focus our attention to finding out as much as we can about potatoes from Cob. Even though he is an ear of corn, he knows quite a bit about spuds!

Student Learning Objectives

1. Describe how a potato gets from the farm to your plate.
2. Discuss personal and average consumption rates of the potato.

Time: 50 minutes

Tools, Equipment, and Supplies: Writing surface, copies of Activity Sheet 7:1, access to byproducts in or near the classroom

Key Term(s): Tuber

OBJECTIVE 1: Describe how a potato gets from the farm to your plate.

Hand out Activity Sheet 7:1, "The Adventures of Cob's Potatoes."

Listen carefully and read along with me as we hear the story of Cob's Potatoes.



NATIONAL STANDARDS

NL-ENG.K-12.1

NL-ENG.K-12.2

NSS-EC.K-4.3

Refer to Activity Sheet 7:1.

OBJECTIVE 2: Discuss personal and average consumption rates of the potato.

Did you catch the part about how many pounds of potatoes the average American consumes? Wow! How does that compare with your weight? Did you eat your weight in potatoes last year?

SUMMARY/REVIEW

REFLECTIVE REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Explain, step-by-step, the travels a potato must take to get from a farm to your dinner plate.
- What are some examples of processed foods that are made of potatoes?
- What foods might we as Americans eat more than 81 pounds of in a year?

Do you see how important agriculture is? It takes a lot of work beyond what happens on the farm to allow all those potatoes to get to our plates.

Use a Little Professor e-Moment® and have students teach each other what they learned about potatoes today.

The next time you eat a potato product think about where that potato came from and how it got here. Remember, we have lots of people to thank for getting that potato to us.



ACTIVITY SHEET 7:1

The Adventures of Cob's Potatoes

NOTES

Lots of things happen to potato before you get to eat
Read the story below about Cob and his potatoes. Then, write your four favorite potato dishes on the lines at the bottom and answer the other two questions.

Hello! My name is Cob and I just happened to be raised with potatoes on

our farm. All the potatoes on the farm enjoy traveling. They each get to go on a wonderful adventure from the farm to your dinner table. Let's take a closer look at a potato before it starts its adventure.

A potato's stem is edible and it grows underground. That's why potatoes are sometimes called tubers.

Each fall the potatoes on the farm begin their journey. A big machine is used to dig or harvest the potatoes from the ground. After the potatoes are harvested, they are stored in a cool, dry place until they are ready to be marketed or sold.

After the potatoes are marketed, they travel to the processing plant where the potatoes are washed and sorted. At the plant, the potatoes might be boxed or placed in a plastic bag to be sold whole for you to prepare at home. Or the processor might peel and cook the potatoes into French fries, instant mashed potatoes or potato salad.

Next, all of the potatoes are placed aboard a truck or railroad car and travel to our supermarkets or restaurants. The potatoes might travel frozen, refrigerated, boxed or canned. Potatoes are processed in many different ways because people like to eat them in many dishes. In fact, each American eats an average of 81 pounds of potato products each year.

What are four of your favorite ways to eat potatoes?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

How many pounds do you weigh?

Do you eat more pounds of potatoes each year than you weigh?

