



# FARM DAY ADVENTURES!

## "The Potato Edition"

### Learning Objectives

1. Learn about potato production in NC
2. Investigate how potatoes follow the light and learn to grow your own

### Supplies

- Scrap Potato
- Potting Soil
- Container
- Shoe Box
- Cardboard Pieces

### Fun Facts

- Yellow Flesh, Round White, & Red Skinned are examples of NC potatoes.
- Potato seedlings are planted in March and harvested in June & July.
- Potatoes grow best in Northeastern North Carolina due to the rich, sandy loam and high mineral type soils.
- 75% sold to potato chip processors & 25% sold to large retail chain stores.

### Grown Your Own Potato

Potatoes can be an easy and FREE plant to grow at home!

1. Look for the "eyes" formed on potatoes in your kitchen. When a sprout appears, it's time to plant.
2. Place the potato cuttings in the soil spaced 10 to 12 inches apart or one "eye" per container.
3. Cover the "eye" with 2 inches of soil until foliage sprouts above ground.

### Build a Potato Maze

- Make a small hole on the short side of a shoebox.
- Cut out several pieces of cardboard and stick them inside the box
- Put a sprouting potato at the end of the box opposite the hole and place the lid on the box.
- Leave the box in a place where light can easily get in through the hole.
- Check every few days to see if your potato has found a pathway to light through the maze!

### Questions?

1. Will your potato eventually reach the light? Why?
2. True or False - Potatoes are 80% water.
3. True or False - Potatoes were the first food ever grown in space.

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