

1/16/22

How Much Do You Know About...

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Tokens (for scorekeeping); Prizes (small) for winner(s)

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

In this game, we look at one subject in depth – it could be a person, place, event, or thing. This week, let's see how much you know about ... **POTATOES**.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give one answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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INSTRUCTIONS: Just answer the questions to find out how much you know about today's subject ... POTATOES.

1. The potato originated in this mountain range area in southern Peru.
2. There are thousands of varieties of wild and cultivated potatoes; but, surprisingly, this orange veggie is only distantly related.
3. Incan farmers first cultivated the potato some 7,000 years ago; but it didn't make its way to Europe until 1570, when explorers from this country brought it back from one of their journeys.
4. Potatoes are members of the nightshade family, which also includes tomatoes, eggplants, and this controversial plant, which is native to North America and is (unfortunately) one of the most profitable agricultural products in the world.
5. The potato has some significant advantages. It is a uniquely nutritious food, containing most of the vitamins needed for sustenance; it can sustain nearly ten people per acre of crop; and it grows well in rugged conditions. For those key reasons, in the 19th century the lowly potato became a major crop in this European island country.
6. Can you guess why the potato was particularly popular with sea going Europeans from the 17th to the 19th century?
7. Each year from 1845 to 1852, the potato crop in Ireland was destroyed by blight. Approximately 1 million people died of starvation, and another million left the country. To what two US cities did the vast majority of Irish immigrants move?
8. Two-thirds of today's potato crop in the US comes from five states. Can you name them? (And here's an alternative question for our Canadian subscribers: Potatoes, the most valuable vegetable crop in Canada, are grown in every province; but which province produces the most?)
9. What toy, introduced in 1952, required the use of a potato ... and was the first toy ever advertised on television?
10. *The Potato Eaters* is a famous 1885 painting that features a family eating ... well ... potatoes. What troubled Dutch master created *The Potato Eaters*?
11. A potato cultivar called Maris Piper is the most common type used by potato chip makers. Can you name a better known cultivar, the most commonly grown potato in

Idaho, which is largely used for baked potatoes and by fast food restaurants to make French fries?

12. A medium-sized potato has about 150 calories. Can you guess how many calories are in a large order of French fries from a fast food restaurant?
13. During this week-long Jewish holiday, in which eating wheat flour is forbidden, potato starch serves as a substitute in cooking and baked goods.
14. In the US, the potato has found its way into the language of pop culture. What is the potato-related phrase for:
 - a. A sedentary person?
 - b. A volatile issue or topic?
 - c. Something that is inconsequential; not a big deal?
15. How many ways to cook potatoes or potato dishes can you name in one minute?

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ANSWERS

1. The Andes
2. The yam and also the sweet potato. They are closely related to each other, but not to the potato.
3. Spain. The Spanish considered the potato as food for the underclasses and used it primarily to feed prison inmates.
4. Tobacco
5. Ireland
6. Given the right conditions, the potato can be stored for 10-12 months without decomposing.
7. New York and Boston
8. Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and Maine. (In Canada, the largest production of potatoes is in Prince Edward Island, with about 35,000 hectares dedicated to the spud.)
9. Mr. Potato Head. When first introduced, the Mr. Potato Head toy included the plastic parts such as eyes, ears, noses, etc. to make a face, but the user had to supply the potato. Later, a plastic potato was included in the kit.
10. Vincent van Gogh
11. The Russet potato, which is also commonly used for chips as well
12. About 500 calories
13. Passover
14. Potato phrases:
 - a. Couch potato
 - b. Hot potato
 - c. Small potatoes
15. Baked Potato, Boiled Potato, French Fries, German Fries, Gnocchi, Hash Browns, Hasselback Potatoes, Home Fries, Lyonnaise Potato, Mashed Potatoes, Potato Chips, Potato Croquettes, Potato Knish, Potato Kugel, Potato Pancake, Potato Salad, Potato Skins, Potatoes Au Gratin, Potatoes O'Brien, Poutine, Roasted Potatoes, Samosa, Scalloped Potatoes, Tater Tots *(Other correct answers are possible.)*