

# The history of the potato

**GROW YOUR  
OWN POTATOES**  
2019

**6000 BC.**

**8000 years ago**

The earliest recorded trace of the potato was found in Peru in South America at around 6000 BC.



**1400**

Potatoes were really important to the Inca civilisation in Peru. It was called the "people's food" and they even measured time by how long it took to cook a potato!



**1536**

Spanish explorers brought the first potatoes back to Europe and soon sailors began to grow them along the coast of northern Spain.



**1589**

Sir Walter Raleigh introduced potatoes to Ireland in 1589 near a city called Cork.

Many researchers believe that the potato's arrival in northern Europe meant the end to food shortage for most people. Farmers in Europe found potatoes easier to grow than their other crops. Most importantly, it became known that potatoes contained most of the vitamins needed to keep people healthy.



**1840**

In the 1840s a major outbreak of potato blight, a plant disease, swept through Europe, wiping out the potato crop in many countries. This particularly affected farmers in Ireland where over 1 million people died and there was a terrible famine.



**1859**

One of the earliest records of chips being eaten is in the book 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens.



**1995**

The potato became the first vegetable to be grown in space.



**2004**

The first ever GYOP competition.

**2019**

**Today!**

Your school has entered the GYOP competition and you are learning about how to grow potatoes.

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