

1. The mighty spud

This week's lesson is about a highly important and hugely popular food: the potato.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. See what the students come up with when you play a word association game with 'potato'. Can they name all the different ways of cooking potatoes in English? Which is their favourite? How frequently do they eat potatoes, and in what forms?
2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer questions on the text but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs, hand out Worksheet B, and ask them to work together to move answer the true/false/doesn't say questions.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to work together to complete the crossword.
6. Check answers in open class.
7. Keeping students in their pairs, tell them that for the final exercise they are going to look at some statements about potatoes and decide if they are true or false. They are then going to have to 'bet' anything from 10 to 50 points on their guesses.
8. Give each pair a copy of Worksheet D, and ask them to read and discuss the statements. In the first column after the statement they should write T (true) or F (false). In the second column they have to write the number of points they are willing to bet on their answer (10 points if they are forced to guess, going up to 50 if they are very confident about the answer).
9. After the pairs have given their answers, it's time to score. Each pair calls out their answer and how many points they have bet. If they have answered correctly, students enter their points in the final column (points won). If they have answered incorrectly, they should enter their points in the third column (points lost). At the end, students subtract the total of the third column from the total of the fourth column to give the total number of points they have won. The pair with the most points wins.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. F 2. F 3. D (The text says the highest consumption *per person* is in Europe; Asia actually has the highest total consumption.) 4. D 5. F 6. T 7. F 8. F 9. D 10. T 11. T 12. T

Exercise 2

1. grow 2. food 3. versatile 4. dishes 5. energy 6. consumption
7. raw 8. boil 9. snack 10. Andes 11. taste 12. more

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Golden Wonder* will read from top to bottom.

Exercise 3

1. **False.** The tallest potato plants are about one metre high.
2. **False.**
3. **True.**
4. **False.** Depending on their size, potatoes take between about 10 and 25 minutes to boil.
5. **True.** China is actually responsible for more than 20% of global potato production.
6. **True.** In fact, due to potatoes' perishability, less than 10% of the total global crop is traded internationally.
7. **True.**
8. **True.**

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.potato2008.org/en/index.html>

Website of the International Year of the Potato (2008). Full of little-known facts. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.britishpotatoes.co.uk/>

Website of the Potato Council, which exists to support the British potato industry. Includes a number of recipes that include potatoes. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.lovechips.co.uk/chip-facts/>

The 'Love Chips' website, devoted, as the name suggests, to one of the favourite ways of consuming potatoes. Intermediate level and above.