Name: _____ Date: _____

Thousands of Potatoes in the Peruvian Andes

Circle group

When you think of a potato, you may see a plain brown one. In the mountains of Peru, potatoes come in many colors. Some are purple. Some are red. Some are yellow or pink. Some are round and some are long. Some are twisted like knobby fingers.

Farmers in the Andes have grown potatoes for thousands of years. Peru has thousands of kinds. Why so many? The mountains have many heights, and each height has its own weather. A farmer can plant one kind on a warm slope. Another kind goes in a cold, windy field up high. Each kind grows best where it fits.

The cold helped farmers find a way to keep potatoes for a long time. They leave small potatoes outside on freezing nights. In the day, the sun warms them, and people stamp out the water. After days of freezing and drying, the potatoes are light, hard, and dry. This food is called chuno. It can be stored for a long time.

Today, many families grow a few kinds in one small field. If bad weather hurts one kind, another may still grow.

Questions

1. What colors can potatoes be in the mountains of Peru?

_____

_____

2. How long have farmers in the Andes grown potatoes?

_____

_____

3. Why does a farmer plant different kinds at different heights?

_____

_____

4. What is chuno?

_____

_____

5. Why might a family grow a few kinds of potatoes in one field?

_____

_____

6. Why is the cold weather helpful for making chuno?

_____

_____

Words to know

knobby: covered with small, hard lumps
slope: the side of a hill or mountain
freezing: so cold that water turns to ice
stored: put away and kept for later use

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Thousands of Potatoes in the Peruvian Andes

Triangle group

When you think of a potato, you may picture a plain, brown one. In the mountains of Peru, potatoes come in a surprising rainbow. Some are purple, some are red, and some are yellow or pink. Some are round, some are long, and some are twisted like knobby fingers.

Farmers in the Andes have grown potatoes for thousands of years. Peru is home to thousands of different kinds. Why are there so many? The mountains have many different heights, and each height has its own weather. A farmer can plant one kind on a warm slope and another in a cold, windy field high above. Each kind does best where it fits.

Cold weather helped the farmers invent a clever way to keep potatoes for a long time. They leave small potatoes outside on freezing nights. In the day, the sun warms them and people stamp out the water. After days of freezing and drying, the potatoes become light, hard, and dry. This food is called chuno, and it can be stored for a long time.

Today, many families still grow several kinds of potatoes in one small field. If bad weather hurts one kind, another may still grow well.

Questions

1. What colors can potatoes be in the mountains of Peru?

_____

_____

2. How long have farmers in the Andes grown potatoes?

_____

_____

3. Why does a farmer plant different kinds at different heights?

_____

_____

4. What is chuno?

_____

_____

5. Why might a family grow several kinds of potatoes in one field?

_____

_____

6. Why is the cold weather helpful for making chuno?

_____

_____

Words to know

knobby: covered with small, hard lumps
slope: the side of a hill or mountain
freezing: so cold that water turns to ice
stored: put away and kept for later use

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Thousands of Potatoes in the Peruvian Andes

Square group

When most people think of a potato, they picture a plain, brown one. In the mountains of Peru, however, potatoes come in a surprising rainbow of colors. Some are purple, some are red, and others are yellow or pink. Some are round, some are long, and some are twisted like knobby fingers.

Farmers in the Andes have cultivated potatoes for thousands of years, and Peru is home to thousands of different varieties. Why are there so many? The mountains rise to many different heights, and each height has its own kind of weather. A farmer can plant one variety on a warm slope and a completely different one in a cold, windy field far above. Each variety thrives best in the place that suits it.

The cold climate also inspired the farmers to invent a clever way of preserving potatoes. They leave small potatoes outdoors on freezing nights. During the day, the sun warms them and people stamp out the water. After several days of freezing and drying, the potatoes become light, hard, and dry. This food, called chuno, can be stored for a very long time.

Today, many families still plant several varieties together in one small field. If bad weather damages one kind, another may still produce a good harvest.

Questions

1. What colors can potatoes be in the mountains of Peru?

_____

_____

2. How long have farmers in the Andes cultivated potatoes?

_____

_____

3. Why does a farmer plant different varieties at different heights?

_____

_____

4. What is chuno?

_____

_____

5. Why might a family plant several varieties together in one field?

_____

_____

6. Why does the cold climate help in making chuno?

_____

_____

Words to know

knobby: covered with small, hard lumps
slope: the side of a hill or mountain
freezing: so cold that water turns to ice
stored: put away and kept for later use

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Thousands of Potatoes in the Peruvian Andes

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Thousands of Potatoes in the Peruvian Andes

Easier · 187 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. Purple, red, yellow and pink.
2. For thousands of years.
3. Each height has its own weather, and each kind grows best where it fits.
4. Potatoes that were frozen and dried until they were light and hard, so they can be stored.
5. If bad weather hurts one kind, another may still grow.
6. The freezing nights help the potatoes freeze and then dry out.

Triangle: Thousands of Potatoes in the Peruvian Andes

This passage · 200 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. Purple, red, yellow and pink.
2. For thousands of years.
3. Each height has its own weather, and each kind does best in the place that fits it.
4. Potatoes that were frozen and dried until they were light and hard, so they can be stored.
5. If bad weather hurts one kind, another may still grow well.
6. The freezing nights help the potatoes freeze and then dry out.

Square: Thousands of Potatoes in the Peruvian Andes

Harder · 212 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. Purple, red, yellow and pink.
2. For thousands of years.
3. Each height has its own weather, and each variety thrives in the place that suits it.
4. Potatoes frozen and dried until they are light and hard, so they can be stored for a long time.
5. If bad weather damages one kind, another may still produce a good harvest.
6. The freezing nights let the potatoes freeze and then dry out.