Name: _____ Date: _____

Thousands of Potatoes From the Andes

Circle group

Most of us know potatoes in only a few shapes, like fries or chips. In the Andes Mountains of South America, there are thousands of kinds. Potatoes first came from there. They come in purple, red, yellow, and speckled pink. Some are as small as a marble. Some are as big as a fist.

Farmers in Peru grow many kinds in one area. Some grow best in warm valleys. Others can stand the cold on high slopes. This keeps farmers safe. If one kind gets sick or a frost comes, the others may live.

The Andes people also store potatoes in a clever way. In the high mountains, nights freeze and days are sunny and dry. Farmers spread small potatoes on the ground to freeze at night. In the day, people press the water out with their feet. Soon the potatoes are light, hard, and dry. This food is called chuno. It keeps a very long time.

Potatoes spread around the world. The Andes still have the most kinds.

Questions

1. Where did potatoes first come from?

_____

_____

2. Can you name three colors of Andean potatoes?

_____

_____

3. Why do farmers grow many kinds of potatoes?

_____

_____

4. How is chuno made?

_____

_____

5. Why does chuno work well in the high mountains?

_____

_____

6. Where are there still the most kinds of potatoes?

_____

_____

Words to know

speckled: covered with small spots
slope: the side of a hill or mountain
frost: a thin layer of ice that forms when it is very cold
store: to keep something safe to use later

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 From the Andes

Triangle group

The potato is a food that most of us know in only a few shapes, such as fries or chips. In the Andes Mountains of South America, the place where potatoes first came from, there are thousands of kinds. They come in colors that include purple, red, yellow, and even speckled pink. Some are as small as a marble, and some are as big as a fist.

Farmers in Peru and nearby lands grow many different kinds in the same area. Some do better in the warm valleys, while others can stand the cold on high slopes. Growing many kinds is a way of staying safe. If one sort gets sick or a frost comes, the others may still survive.

The Andes people also have a clever way to store potatoes. In the high mountains, nights are freezing and days are sunny and dry. Farmers spread small potatoes on the ground to freeze at night. During the day, people press the water out by stepping on them. After several days, the potatoes become light, hard, and dry. This food is called chuño, and it can be kept for a very long time.

Potatoes spread from the Andes to the rest of the world and now feed millions of people. Their home mountains still hold the greatest variety.

Questions

1. Where did potatoes first come from?

_____

_____

2. Can you name three colors of Andean potatoes?

_____

_____

3. Why do farmers grow many different kinds of potatoes?

_____

_____

4. How is chuño made?

_____

_____

5. Why does chuño work well in the high mountains?

_____

_____

6. Where do potatoes still have the greatest variety?

_____

_____

Words to know

variety: a different kind of the same thing
speckled: covered with small spots
slope: the side of a hill or mountain
frost: a thin layer of ice that forms when it is very cold
store: to keep something safe to use later

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 From the Andes

Square group

The potato is a food that most of us know in only a few forms, such as fries or chips. In the Andes Mountains of South America, the region where potatoes originated, there are thousands of different kinds. They come in colors that include purple, red, yellow, and even speckled pink. Some are as tiny as a marble, while others are as large as a fist.

Farmers in Peru and neighboring lands grow many varieties in the same area. Some thrive in the warm valleys, whereas others can withstand the cold on high slopes. Growing many kinds is a way of staying safe, because if one variety falls sick or a frost arrives, the others may still survive.

The Andean people also have an ingenious way to store potatoes. In the high mountains, the nights are freezing and the days are sunny and dry. Farmers spread small potatoes on the ground to freeze overnight. During the day, people press the water out by stepping on them. After several days, the potatoes become light, hard, and dry. This food is called chuno, and it can be kept for a very long time.

Potatoes eventually spread from the Andes to the rest of the world and now feed millions of people. Their home mountains still hold the greatest variety.

Questions

1. In which region did potatoes originate?

_____

_____

2. Can you name three colors in which Andean potatoes come?

_____

_____

3. Why do farmers grow many varieties of potatoes?

_____

_____

4. How is chuno prepared?

_____

_____

5. Why does making chuno suit the high mountains?

_____

_____

6. Where does the greatest variety of potatoes still exist?

_____

_____

Words to know

variety: a different kind of the same thing
speckled: covered with small spots
slope: the side of a hill or mountain
frost: a thin layer of ice that forms when it is very cold
store: to keep something safe to use later

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 From the Andes

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

Circle: Thousands of Potatoes From the Andes

Easier · 169 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. The Andes Mountains of South America.
2. Any three of purple, red, yellow, and speckled pink.
3. If one kind gets sick or a frost comes, the others may live.
4. Potatoes freeze at night, then the water is pressed out and they dry.
5. Nights are freezing and days are sunny and dry.
6. In the Andes.

Triangle: Thousands of Potatoes From the Andes

This passage · 218 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. The Andes Mountains of South America.
2. Any three of purple, red, yellow, and speckled pink.
3. If one kind gets sick or a frost comes, the others may survive.
4. Potatoes freeze at night, then people press the water out and they dry in the sun.
5. Nights are freezing and days are sunny and dry.
6. In their home mountains, the Andes.

Square: Thousands of Potatoes From the Andes

Harder · 217 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. The Andes Mountains of South America.
2. Any three of purple, red, yellow, and speckled pink.
3. If one variety falls sick or a frost arrives, the others may still survive.
4. Potatoes freeze overnight, then people press the water out and they dry in the sun.
5. The nights are freezing and the days are sunny and dry.
6. In their home mountains, the Andes.