

Don't be a couch potato... join us for some

Spud Science



What do we know about the humble spud? Sir Walter Raleigh introduced it to Britain? WRONG! It had already arrived via Spain.

Here's a far more interesting fact about the spud - In October 1995 the potato became the first vegetable to be grown in space! Scientists were called in by NASA to develop super-nutritious and versatile spuds to feed astronauts on long space voyages. Imagine! Future space colonies feasting on their supercharged version of the potato, first worshipped by the Peruvian Incas!

So what are we going to do on Spud Science Day?

Potato Power – generate electricity using a potato. Can you power a small lamp?

Tuber Testing – did you know potatoes are full of Vitamin C?

You can test them and find out.

Potato Problems – potatoes can develop diseases.

How do scientists work to prevent this?

If you think potato disease is not that important, try telling that to the people of Ireland. In September 1845 between one-third and half of their potato crop was destroyed by a strange disease known as 'potato blight'. Over a million people died as a result of famine.

Q. What do you say to an angry baked potato?

A. Anything. Just butter him up!

Q. Why do potatoes make good detectives?

A. Because they keep their eyes peeled!



Spud Science – you'll never look at a packet of crisps in the same way again...