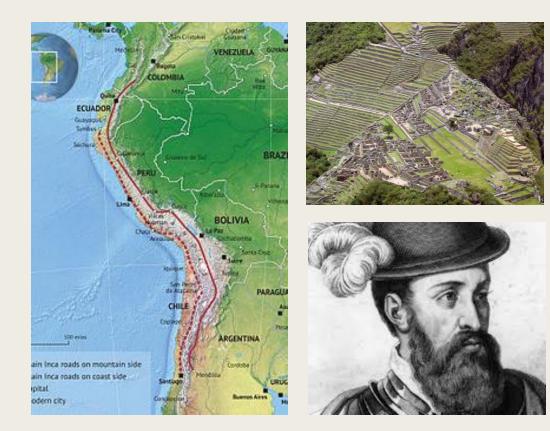
THE POTATO A Brief History of an Incredible Tuber



THE ANDES – MOUNTAINS AND MICROCLIMATES

Friday, November 15th, 1532

- Francisco Pizzaro
- Late 1500's Potato introduced to Europe in Spain and British Isle
- Mainly used for animal feed and decoration
- By 1800's the potato was a staple in European cuisine (especially for the peasant class)



The potato conquest of the world

World conquering tuber from the Andean mountains



Peru says the first potatoes were cultivated near Lake Titicaca on the Peru-Bolivia border, from around 4,000 BC, but now some Chileans are claiming a more southerly origin

By the**1840s** the potato was the only staple crop in Ireland, this led to disastrous consequences in the **1845 potato famine**

Europeans planted the first potatoes in North America in the **18th century**

Spanish conquerors of South America took the tuber back in the 16th century, mostly as a curiosity

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Dutch traders introduced potatoes to South Africa in the 17th century

Source: International Year of the Potato

Potatoes had reached India by the 17th century most likely on **Portuguese ships**

The tuber spread through Europe in the 17th and 18th century, where it gradually became an important

Potatoes reached China in the

17th century; China is now the

world's biggest potato producer with an annual yield of 75 million tonnes

staple crop

Captain James Cook _____ carried potatoes on his ship when he claimed Australia for Britain in 1770

AFP 050210

Biodiversity vs Monoculture Production

South America

Europe





What Went Wrong? - Potato Famine 1845-1852



Potato Reproduction

True Seed





Cloning (Asexual Reproduction)



A Way Forward

- Indigenous Knowledge
- Biocultural Heritage
- Parque de la Papa
- Guardian Farmers
- Climate Change
- NASA





That's right, NASA is studying the Potato.

https://vimeo.com/216635756?ref=em-share

Discussion Questions:

Where are Potatoes From?

Climate/ Microclimates/ Andean Culture – what we know, how would this affect food production?

Science of the Potato

Wild vs. Cultivated varieties – Peruvian uses for potatoes So what happened? How did we go from thousands to 12-? Varieties?

Conquistatores and potatoes – boom in population, but then famine. What was missing?

Indigenous knowledge, biocultural heritage – define

talk about relationship to NASA and Mars mission

Climate change! How do we learn from the lessons of the past and move into the future?