

KINDERGARTEN: MITCH AGRICULTURE

MAKAH OZETTE POTATO



I AM A SEED SAVER!

MY NAME IS:





SEED

SAVERS

This year, your class will be in charge of harvesting, saving, growing, and returning the Makah Ozette Potato Seed from our school garden to the Makah Tribe.

This is an important job!

The Makah Ozette Potato is special to Makah families. We will learn more from Makah teacher, Yvonne Wilkie. You will see pictures of her and her students throughout this book.

Do you have special foods that are important to your family?



FALL

HARVEST

Today we are harvesting the Makah Ozette potatoes planted in our garden last Spring.

These potatoes have a special story. They have been grown by Makah families in **Neah Bay, Washington** for hundreds of years.



THE MAKAH NATION

The Makah have lived in Neah Bay, Washington since time immemorial, or before human memory began.

Here, the Makah fish and forage for berries. They once planted the Makah Ozette potato throughout the rainforest in Neah Bay too. Today, they plant it in their gardens.

These potatoes are very important to Makah families. Yvonne Wilkie, a Makah teacher, will tell us how they have passed on the potato generation to generation.

The Makah Ozette is called "Qawic" /kaʊ-wits/ in the Makah language. Can you say Qawic /kaʊ-wits/?



"My grandmother grew the Makah Ozette in her garden. There is somebody in just about every family in the village that grows them. Today, most everyone has their own garden, but they don't just keep their harvest to themselves. Everyone exchanges food often. It's about giving and not taking."

- Yvonne Wilkie, Makah Language and Culture Teacher

DRAW A MAKAH OZETTE POTATO





WINTER RETURN

Today, we will return some of these Makah Ozette potato seeds back to the Makah Nation.

Yvonne taught us that Makah families share their seeds with one another.

Let's learn about why it is important to return these seeds to the Makah.



How would you feel if you were forced to leave your home?

This happened to the Makah Nation in 1855.

The United States Government took most of their homeland.

Today they live on a much smaller piece of land, called a reservation.

They have worked hard to continue fishing, gathering, and growing food.

They have kept their traditions strong.

One of those traditions is growing the Makah Ozette potato.

“In Ozette,” said, Yvonne, describing a Makah village, “it is all rainforest. There are tons of trees, and not many open spaces.” Her ancestors “wouldn’t cultivate a whole garden, but they would find a clear spot and plant a potato here and there and then go back and harvest them. We have a history of gathering food. All different kinds of berries, fruit trees — harvesting and gathering is something that is traditional to us. Every season there is something to harvest.”



MAKE A CARD FOR THE MAKAH

We are returning the seeds grown in our garden back to the Makah. We will include your cards.

Yvonne taught us that these potatoes are important to Makah family recipes and culture. It is important that they always have them.

She says, "My favorite way to have them is with smoked dry fish, steamed potatoes, and seal oil. Elders that are older than me, they like to have them in fish soup, either halibut or salmon. Every family has their own favorite way. They pass on the recipes through the generations."



The name Makah was attributed to the Tribe by neighboring tribes, meaning “people generous with food” in the Salish language.

Trace the word Makah and its meaning.

Makah

people generous

with food





SPRING SPROUT

Today, we will sprout our Makah Ozette seeds to get them ready to plant.

Together, we will continue the life cycle of the Makah Ozette Potato. Count the eyes on your potato.

This is where your potato plant will sprout.

MAKAH OZETTE POTATO PLANT



Count the eyes on your potato.

This is where your potato plant will sprout.

Draw your potato before and after it sprouts.

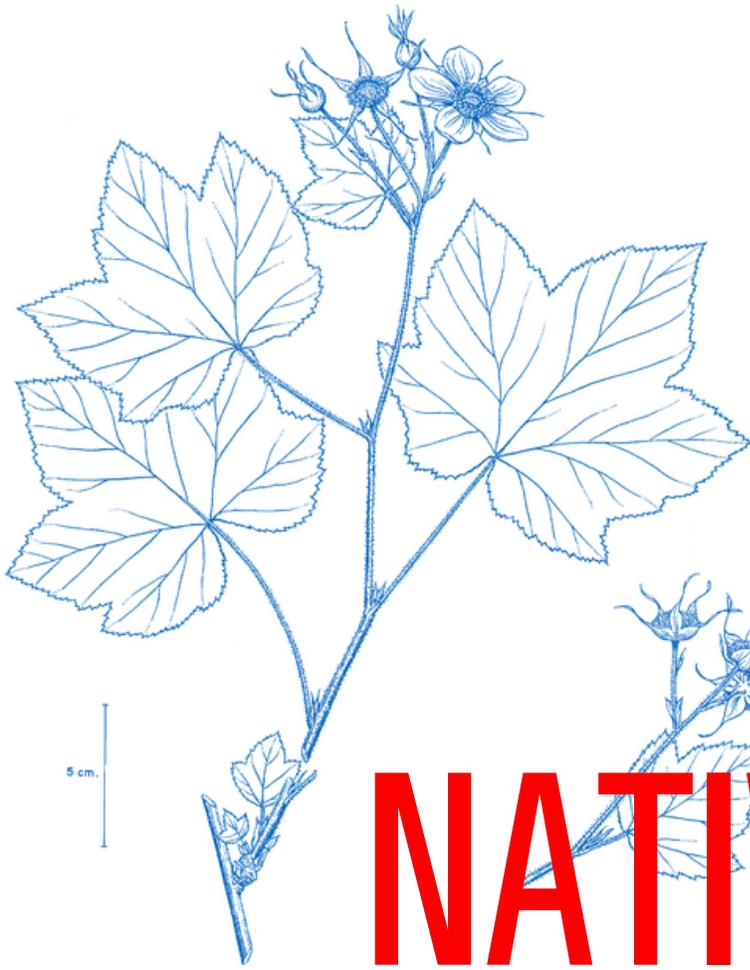
BEFORE

AFTER

THIMBLEBERRY

The leaf has rough edges and 5 main points.

Find it in our garden!



NATIVE BERRIES

SALMONBERRY

The leaf has rough edges and 3 main points.

Find it in our garden!





SUMMER PLANT

Today, we will plant our Makah Ozette potato seeds.

They will grow more potato seeds and the next Kindergarteners will return them to the Makah.

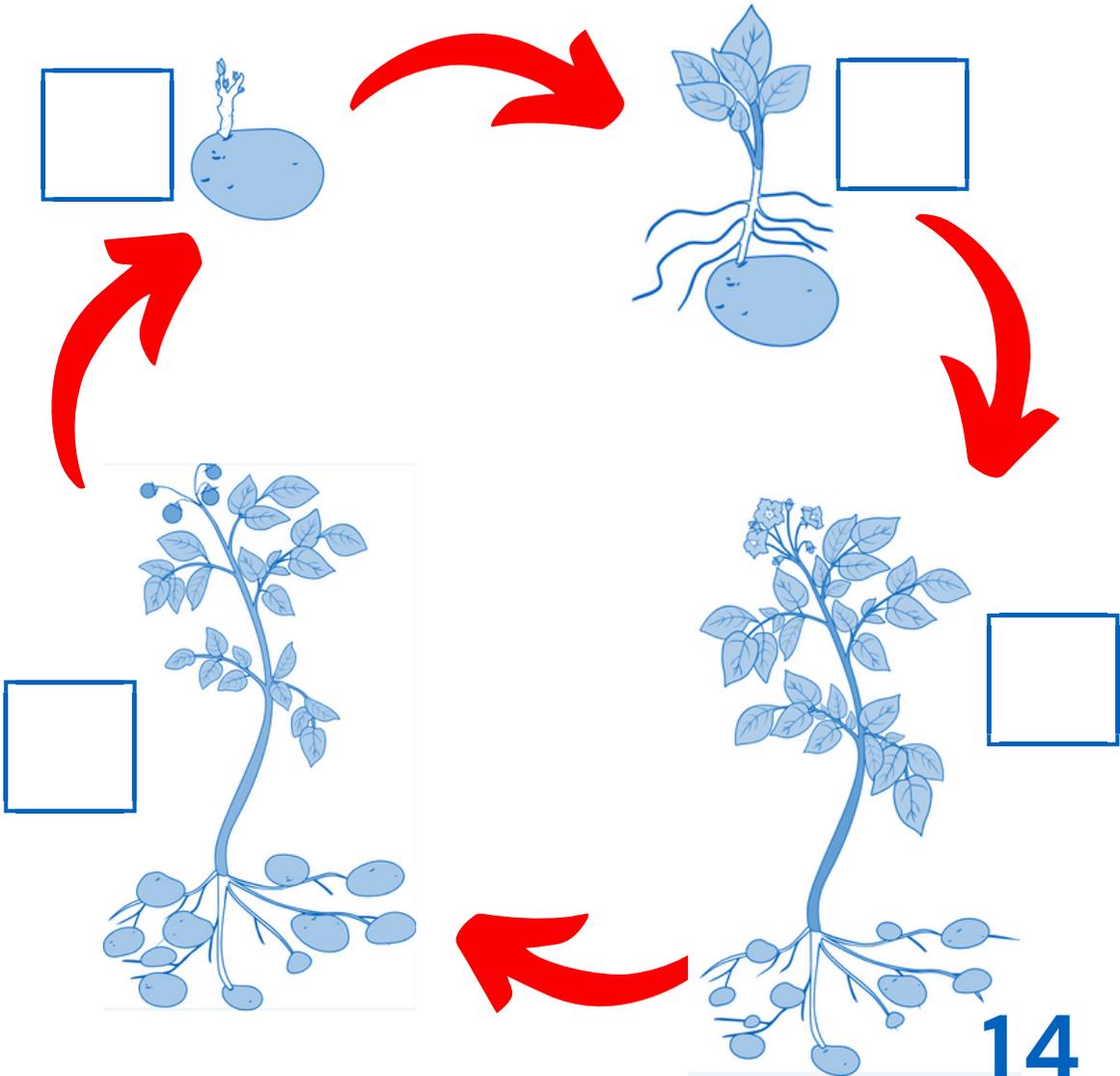
If a potato seed is not planted, the seed will die.

You are important to the life of the Makah Ozette potato!

LIFE CYCLE OF A POTATO PLANT

When you plant a potato seed, you start its life all over again!

Number the steps of the potato life cycle from 1-4, starting with sprouting the potato from its eyes.



WRITE A NOTE TO A KINDERGARTENER

Next year, you will be a first grader!

There will be new kindergarteners that will harvest and return more of the Makah Ozette seeds to Makah families for their recipes and their gardens. By returning these seeds to their families, you are building the strength of the Makah Tribe.

Write the future Kindergarteners a note and/or draw a picture to show how and why we return these seeds to the Makah.

