



# Potato's tomb

The potato is one of the most popular foods today. People eat it in many ways: baked, fried, or boiled. But a long time ago, potatoes were not so popular.

Potatoes came to Europe from America. At first, they only used potatoes to feed animals. Even when people were very hungry, they didn't trust potatoes, especially in France.

A man named Antoine-Augustin de Parmentier, a French pharmacist, was a prisoner in Prussia, where he saw people eating potatoes without any problem. When Parmentier returned to France, the country was starving because of war. Parmentier had a clever idea. He was friends with King Louis XVI and asked him to help. They tried to make potatoes popular by showing the nobility eating them, but it didn't work.

Then, Parmentier had a better idea. He planted potatoes in a big garden near the Eiffel Tower. He put guards around the garden during the day, so people thought the potatoes were valuable. At night, the guards left, and curious people sneaked in to steal and eat the potatoes.

This trick worked! People started to love potatoes, and they became popular in all Europe and people were safe from starving. Today, Parmentier is remembered for his efforts. People still visit his tomb and leave potatoes there to say thank you.

PHOTO

VIDEO



# QUESTIONS

1. Where do potatoes come from?
  - a) Russia
  - b) India
  - c) China
  - d) America
2. Where did Parmentier live before returning to France?
  - a) Japan
  - b) Spain
  - c) Prussia
  - d) Morocco
3. Who was the king of France?
  - a) Philip VII
  - b) Henry VIII
  - c) Louis XVI
  - d) George III
4. Where did they plant the potatoes?
  - a) In a castle
  - b) In a palace
  - c) In a museum
  - d) In a garden
5. What item do people leave on the tomb?
  - a) Apples
  - b) Bananas
  - c) Potatoes
  - d) Strawberries

