Eyes Up
Purpose To show that potatoes can propagate.

Materials
4 potatoes
Quart (liter) jar
Potting soil
Tap water

Procedure
• Place the potatoes inside a dark cabinet. Check the skin of each potato daily for small white growths called "eyes."
• Cut a square out of the potato around the eye.
• Fill the jar with potting soil.
• Bury the "eye" about 2 inches (5 cm) below the soil's surface with the eye sticking up.
• Keep the soil moist with tap water, but not wet.
• Observe the jar for 2 weeks.

Results In 10 to 14 days, a plant shoot will emerge from the soil.

Why? A potato is an underground stem called a tuber. The potato eyes are the organs of vegetative reproduction. Each eye will grow into a new potato plant. The production of a new plant from parts of an old plant is one way that potatoes propagate (reproduce).