

[E-BOOK] The Amazing Potato: A Story in which the Incas, Conquistadors, Marie Antoinette, Thomas Jefferson, Wars, Famines, Immigrants, and French Fries All Play a Part

The Amazing Potato: A Story in which the Incas, Conquistadors, Marie Antoinette, Thomas Jefferson, Wars, Famines, Immigrants, and French Fries All Play a Part

Milton Meltzer

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Milton Meltzer : The Amazing Potato: A Story in which the Incas, Conquistadors, Marie Antoinette, Thomas Jefferson, Wars, Famines, Immigrants, and French Fries All Play a Part before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Amazing Potato: A Story in which the Incas, Conquistadors, Marie Antoinette, Thomas Jefferson, Wars, Famines, Immigrants, and French Fries All Play a Part*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Who Knew Food History Could Be So Interesting? By misn0merLong before I ran into the cable cooking show hosted by Alton Brown, I had learned about food historians because of this book. If you think that Idaho gave birth to the potato, this book will open your eyes to the long journey this simple tuber took to become the staple that it is today. Who knew that at one time it was fashionable for women to wear potato blossoms in their hair? Who first discovered that the potato was good to eat? How many varieties of this starch exist? How did French Fries get their name? You can read this book and find out more about each question. I only take issue with a bit of the information presented about the Irish. I would have been much happier with this book if the editor had insisted that the author keep his opinions of the Irish who stayed in Ireland and weathered the famine to himself. He's welcome to think what he does, even if I believe he is wrong, but those views should never have gone

into this book - even if it comprises only a line or two. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Spuds are never duds! Another historical gem. By D. Ferrell For grades 3 to 7 our 7th grader loved reading this with dad and was delighted to learn what most Irish, not to mention every nationality and race, does not know: the exact location from where potatoes originated (hint: look south near where the Blue Morpho butterfly lives and alpacas, too) This little book is a jewel of a history and geography book with generous portions of photos, diagrams, drawings and index, bibliography, potato quotes or quips, and specific notes for each chapter regarding the source books. This is truly a chapter book and it's not overloaded with minute details, yet detailed enough and chock full of facts to urge the reader to finish its 115 pages in one week or less. With chapters entitled: "The answer to world hunger" and "famine in Ireland" the reader is filled with such interest and desires more chapters than are written. It's up to date with information about modern potato growers, too. Such a book will inspire the minds of many a child and George Washington Carver would be proud of Mr. Meltzer's work. It is a very quick read but full of meat so leave plenty of time to discuss and digest and be sure to pass the potatoes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One Star By Bridgetpasta ftw

A look at the potato's influence on the civilizations of the world discusses its impact on the empire of the Incas, the history of Ireland, its use during wars, and its current use in the fight against world hunger.

From School Library Journal Grade 3-7-- Meltzer has chosen a rather unusual subject for his latest topic. Designed as a history, *Amazing Potato* begins with the discovery of the potato in ancient Peru where the Inca were already cultivating and preserving it, and concludes with present day uses and research. Little-known facts come to life as Meltzer tells how the potato made its way to North America and Europe, often being rejected as food fit for human consumption. The chapters on the famine in Ireland are probably the best available. This information, combined with a brief discussion of the socio-economic conditions of the times, results in a text that is not readily found elsewhere. Captioned illustrations include many black-and-white photos and pen-and-ink drawings. In addition to serving as a good reference, this unusual title might just be the thing for general nonfiction assignments. - Eldon Younce, Harper Elementary School, KS Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sMeltzer's long subtitle--"A Story in Which the Incas, Conquistadors, Marie Antoinette, Thomas Jefferson, Wars, Famines, Immigrants, and French Fries All Play a Part"--suggests the range of his latest fascinating exploration of social history. Covering the potato's nutritional value and economic importance, its early culture and the superstitions that attended its spread, the terrible consequences of Ireland's potato famine and the effect in the US of the attendant migration, and even some methods of cooking this versatile vegetable, Meltzer skillfully dramatizes the interrelationships among different fields of knowledge and the far-reaching effects a single species can have on the fortunes of mankind. Well-chosen bw illustrations, mostly historical; bibliography; excellent source notes; index. (Nonfiction. 9+) -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.