

# POTATOES

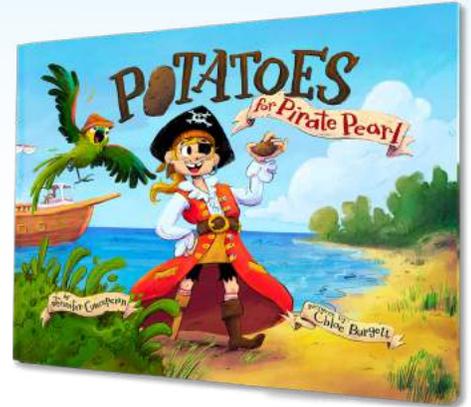
by Jennifer Concepcion

for Pirate Pearl

pictures by Chloe Burgett

## Activity Kit

**This pirate-packed and hilarious read-aloud is an entertaining way to introduce young readers to where their food comes from!**



Join Pirate Pearl and her parrot Petunia as they learn how potatoes are planted, grown, and harvested in this hilarious debut picture book about food and friendship.

Pirate Pearl and her parrot Petunia are HUNGRY, and after they make the hardtack biscuits walk the plank, they go in search of a perfect provision for their next sea voyage. Where do they end up? On Farmer Fay's potato farm! Farmer Fay shows Pirate Pearl how potatoes grow on the farm and how potatoes can be cooked into many different delicious potato recipes.

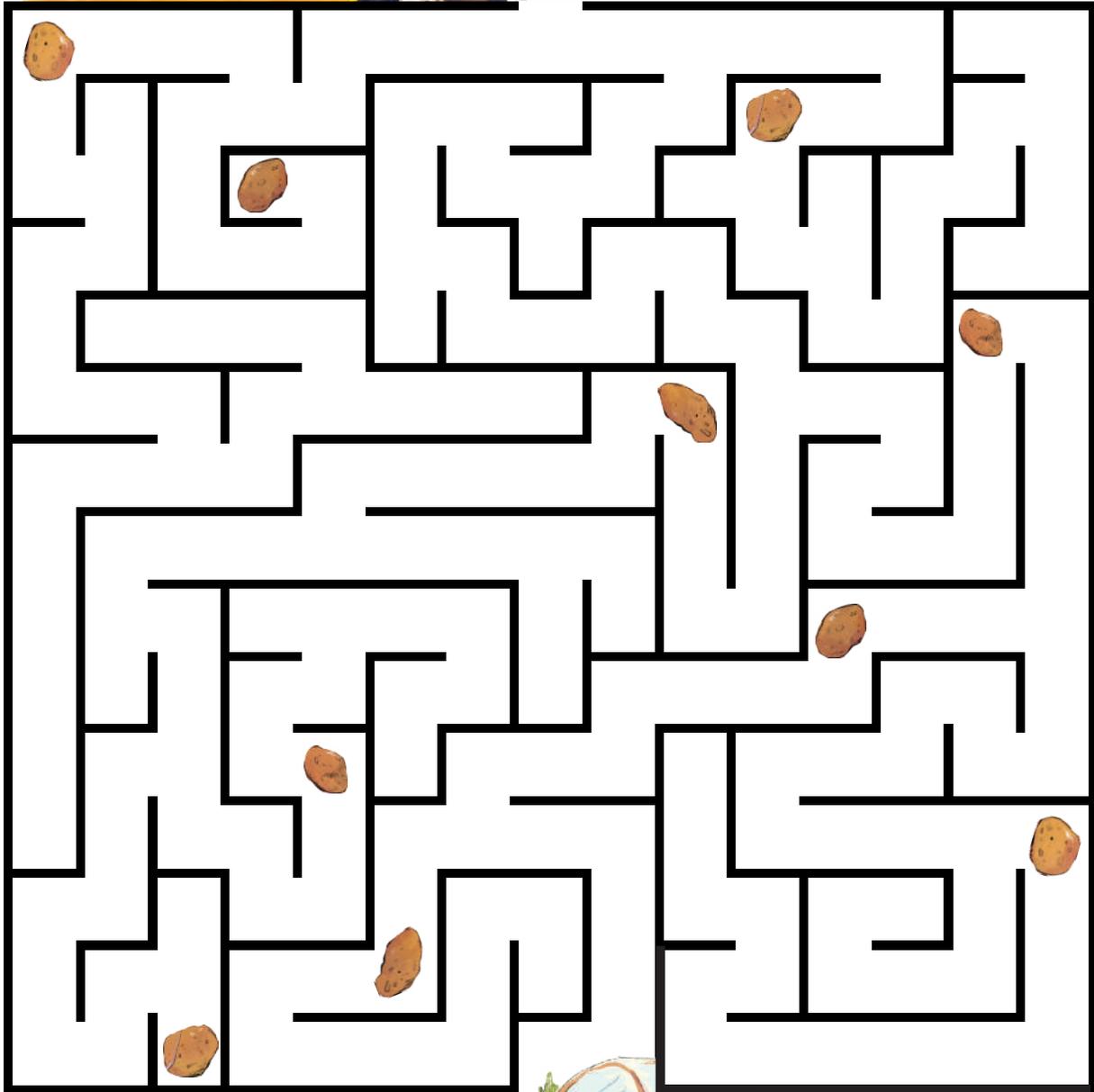
Pirate Pearl and Petunia not only gain an understanding of farming but also a new friendship with Farmer Fay! Back matter is packed with potato facts, information on growing your own potatoes, and recipes.





Can you help guide Pirate Pearl and Farmer Fay to the greenhouse?

**Bonus:** How many potatoes can you grab on the way?



## Word Search



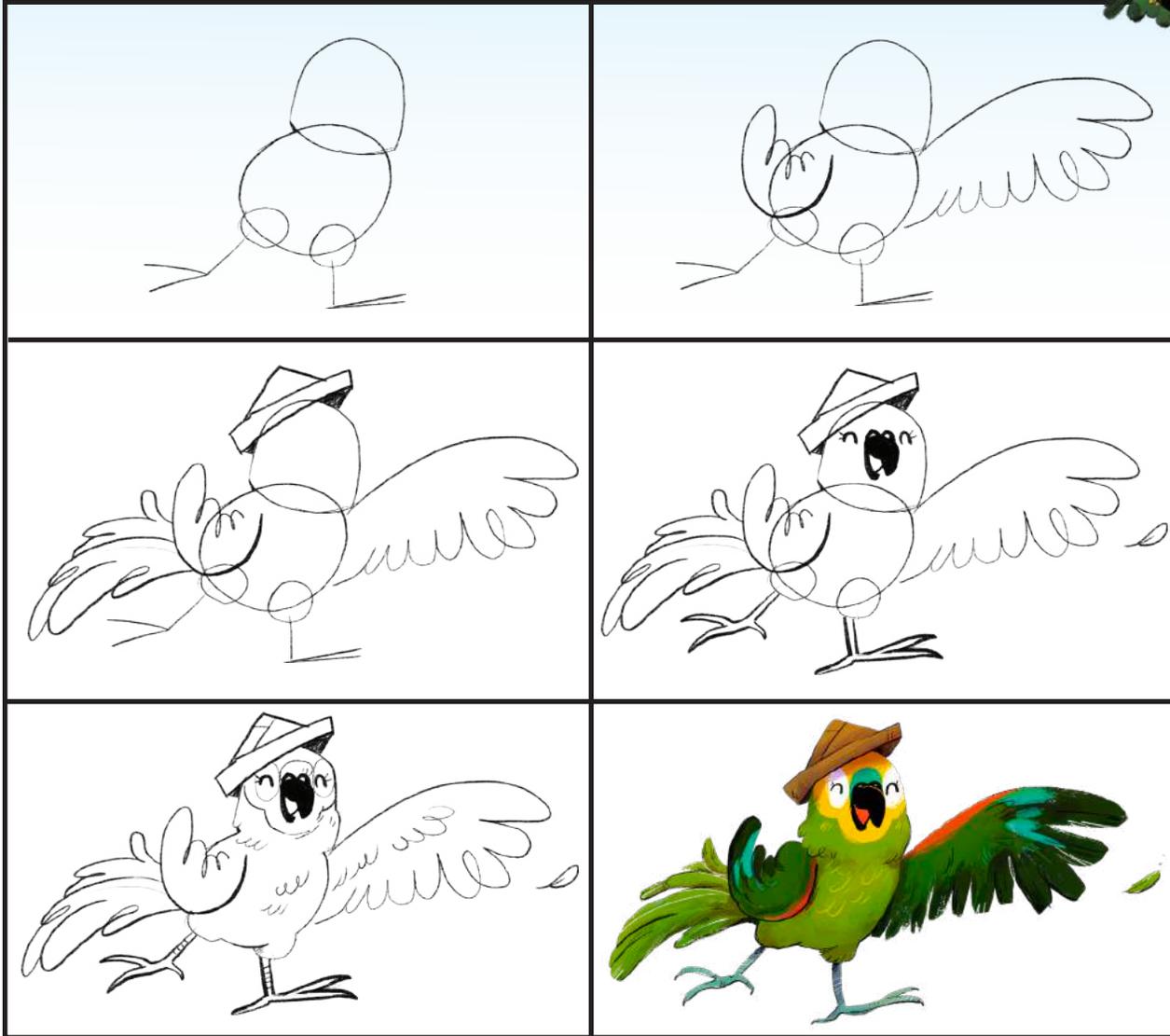
## Words

pirate pearl  
hardtack  
ship

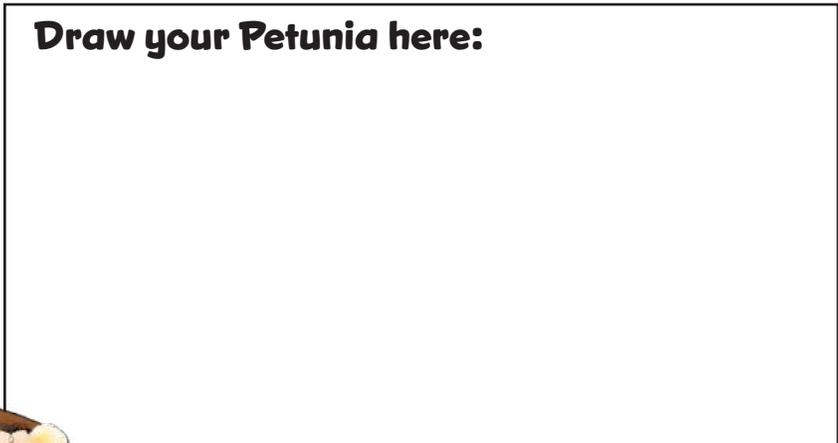
splash  
squawk  
farmer fay

grow  
potatoes  
seeds

tractor  
soup  
petunia



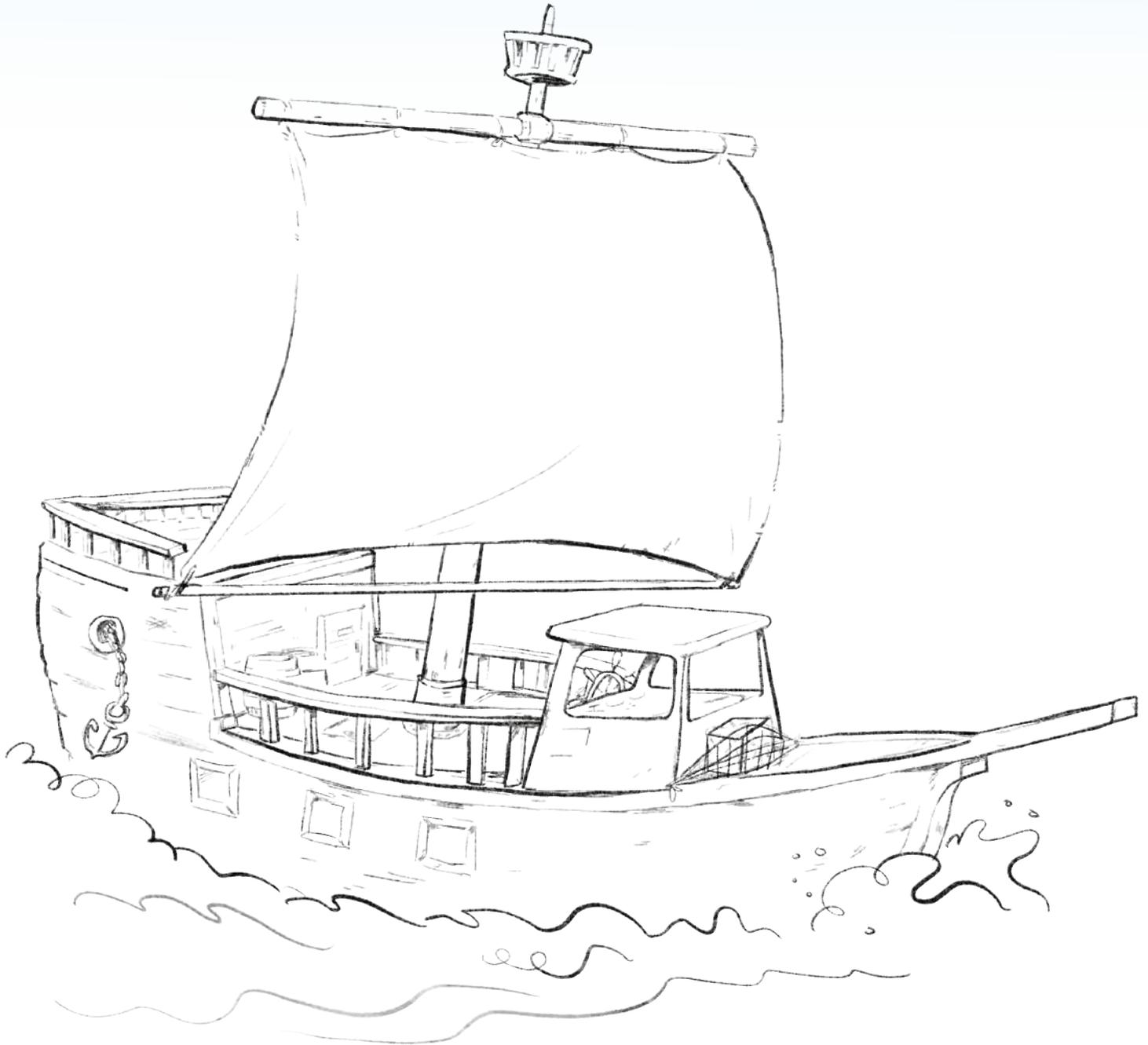
**Draw your Petunia here:**



**Squawk! Color Petunia as she explores the potato plants.**



**It's time to set sail! Decorate the Jolly Oyster for its voyage.**



## GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES

### What to do:

1. Fill the bottom of the container with sand or small rocks to help with drainage.



2. Spread at least 6 inches of the growing soil on top of the sand or small rocks.



3. Cut the seed potatoes into quarters, making sure each section has at least two sprouted eyes.



4. Place the pieces 6 inches apart on top of the soil, sprouts pointing upward.



5. Add 3 to 4 more inches of moist soil on top of the potato pieces.



6. Water the sprouts every 3 to 5 days, or when the soil feels completely dry.



7. After about 4 weeks, you will see green sprouts shooting up through the soil.



8. For every 7-10 inches of growth, add 3-4 more inches of soil on top of the sprouts (gently, without packing them down) until the soil reaches the top of the container. (This is called "mounding up.")



9. After 60 to 80 days, the plants will sprout flowers.



10. When the flowers on the plants start to wither and drop off, this means the potatoes are ready to be harvested.



11. Dig up, wash, and enjoy!



### What you need:

- 70-100 days, depending on the variety of your potatoes
- Sunny outdoor area
- Seed potatoes or sprouted potatoes (Washed potatoes from the grocery store should take 10-14 days to sprout in a dark, cool place.)
- A large container (a 30-gallon garbage can is ideal), with small holes in the bottom for drainage
- Growing soil (well-drained, sandy soil with a pH of 6.0-6.5)
- Enough sand/ small rocks to cover the bottom of your container
- Optional: Compost or 15-15-15 Fertilizer

**"Don't be cuttin' potatoes without yer trusty grown-up!"**



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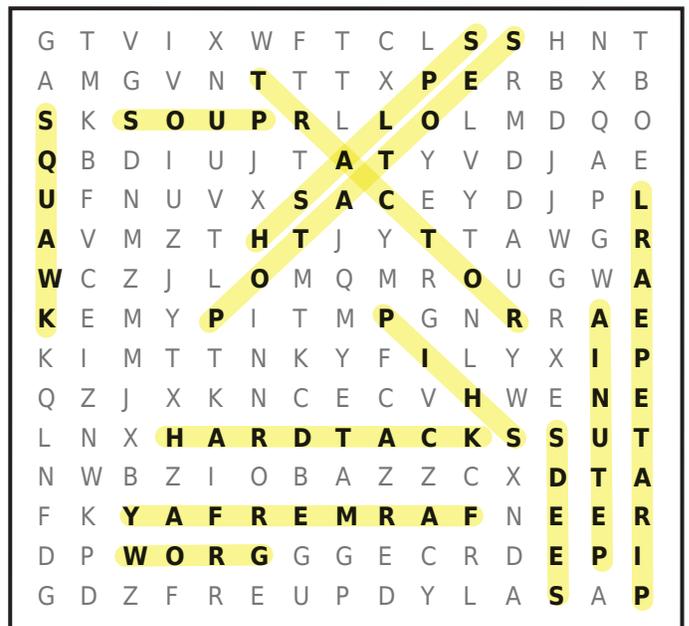
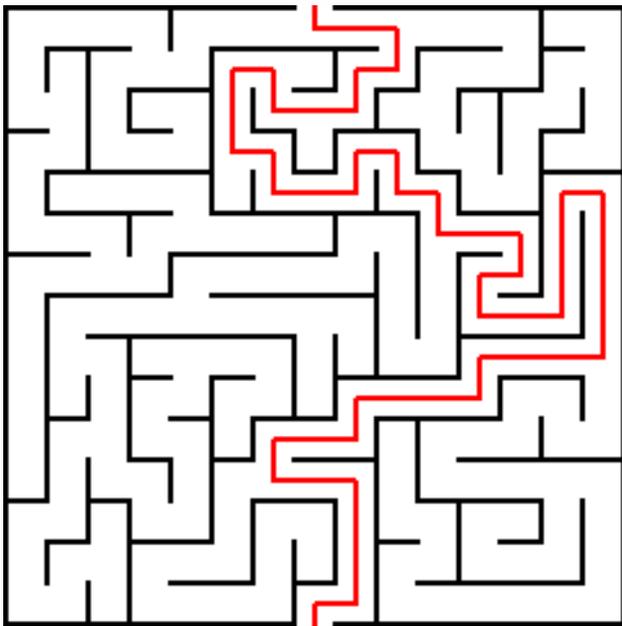
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### Answer Key



FEEDING MINDS  
PRESS

