

## Children's Literature Reviews

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### The biography of potatoes

*Ellen Rodger.*

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New York, NY : Crabtree Pub. Co., c2007.

32 p. : ill. (some col.), col. map ; 29 cm.

#### Annotations:

Includes index.

A historic vegetable -- A home worldwide -- How potatoes grow -- Ancient potatoes -- The potato spreads -- The potato and Ireland -- The great hunger -- Back to the New World -- Diseases and threats -- From tubers to fries -- The potato's future.

#### Reading Measurement Programs:

Accelerated Reader

Interest Level Middle Grade

Book Level 7.3

Accelerated Reader Points 1

#### Reviews:

##### **Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)**

Part of the "How Did That Get Here?" series which includes titles from bananas and chocolate to wheat and vanilla, this handsome 32-page book is chock full of color photographs that enhance and expand the text, giving it reach way beyond the middle-grade reader who is its target audience. Chapters are short and cover topics including: "A Historic Vegetable," "A Home Worldwide" (showing a map of major producers), "How Potatoes Grow" (including discussion of rhizomes, tubers, and mechanical pickers), "Ancient Potatoes" (detailing Andean growing practices that promote diversity), "The Potato Spreads" (chronicling its effects on European culture), "The Potato and Ireland," "The Great Hunger," "Back to the New World," and "Diseases and Threats" (including a sidebar on organic potatoes). This also looks at "From Tubers to Fries" with potato lore, Frito Lay, and the multimillion dollar industry of starch production and "The Potato's Future" with heritage potatoes, bioengineered potatoes, and the International Potato Center in Peru. Includes a brief glossary and an index. The content of the book is appropriate for middle school and high school, and it certainly does not speak down to young adults in agricultural studies, although older readers may skip this title--and perhaps even the whole series--as being "too babyish." The discussion of genetically modified strains is certainly not anti-GMO. 2007, Crabtree Publishing, \$8.95. Ages 8 to 16.

#### Series:

[How did that get here?](#)

#### Subjects:

[Potatoes Juvenile literature.](#)

#### Link to a Web Feature or Search for Other Works by:

[Rodger, Ellen.](#)

Search for other reviews by:

[Gwynne Spencer](#)

Language	Call Number	LCCN	Dewey Decimal	ISBN/ISSN
English (eng)	SB211.P8 R63 2007	2007003458	635/.21	9780778724926 (rlb) 0778724921 (rlb) 9780778725282 (pb) 0778725286 (pb)

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