

MAKE YOUR OWN POTATO STAMPS

YOU'LL NEED:

- One potato (or more)
- Small paring knife
- Cutting board
- Marker
- Washable paints (or ink pad used for stamping)
- Cotton swabs or paintbrush
- Paper plate
- Paper towels
- Paper
- **Optional:** small cookie cutters

HOW-TO:

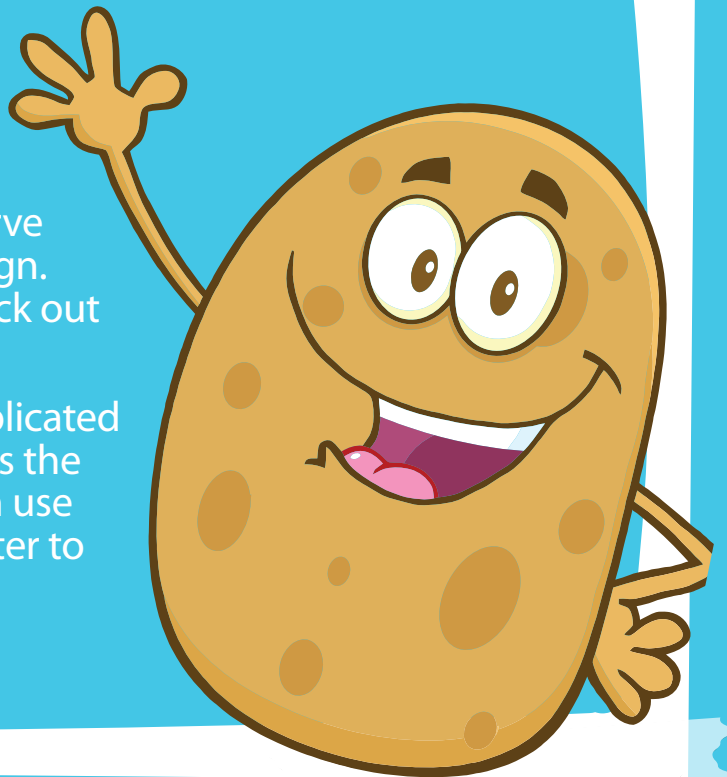
1 Get an adult helper. Decide what shape or design you'll make.

2 Cut the potato in half (lengthwise for taller stamps, widthwise for smaller stamps). Depending on the selected design, you can also cut into quarters.

Using your marker, draw your shape on the flat surface of the potato. Carefully cut around the shape with the knife, not going too deep, less than 1/2 inch, and then carve out the excess around the design. Your shape will be raised, or stick out of the potato.

Note: If you want a more complicated shape, use a cookie cutter. Press the cutter into the potato and then use the knife to cut around the cutter to remove the excess potato.

You're ready to create!



3

Squeeze some paint onto your paper plate.

Blot the potato with a dry paper towel.

Use a cotton swab to lightly and evenly brush the paint on your potato stamp.

You can use multiple colors by brushing rather than dipping your stamp into the paint. Be careful not to use too much paint on the potato, or it will be too slippery.

Note: If you don't have any paint, or if you want a different look, use an ink pad.

4

Firmly press your stamp to your paper. Lift straight up to reveal your design. Repeat to create your desired picture.

5

You can wipe the stamp off and repeat with different colors until your picture is finished.

PS: Remember to clean up after your project.

Bonus: Research the history of rubber stamps and how they're made. Research how vegetables and fruits can be used to create natural inks.

Alternate: Instead of a potato, use a beet. Create a stamp like you did with your potato, but skip the paint and use the natural magenta pigments in the beet as your ink.

