**Unit 4 Enrichment Activity #2**

Today week we're talking smut! No, really, smut isn't just what adults call trashy things. Smut is a fungal disease that strikes plants, like rusts and blights! Our focus is to understand the types of diseases that attack plants so that we can look at how to protect crops. Sounds unimportant? Think again! These diseases can wipe out a farmer's entire crop, not to mention the farm's profits. Plus, when lots of people depend on the crops for food, plant diseases can drive up prices, lower the quality of produce, and even cause people to starve! An excellent example of this is the Irish Potato Famine. Not only did it do all of these things, it changed the course of Irish history forever! View the Prezi at <https://prezi.com/st2vq3uznmvb/the-irish-potato-famine/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy>

Maybe you learned about this in your history classes. If you've seen movies like "The Gangs of New York" you're watching how the Irish immigrants fleeing this famine impacted politics and social policy here in the US. It's an interesting period in world history.

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| 1. Define Monoculture and contrast it with polyculture. |
| 2. Do some internet research on polycultures. Could a polyculture of potatoes prevented the Irish potato famine? |
| 3. How could biotechnology helped prevent or lessen the effects of the Irish potato famine? |
| 4. With all of our modern technology and know-how, do you think that such an impactful famine could happen today? Explain your answer. |