# Deep Sea Learning with Georgia Aquarium



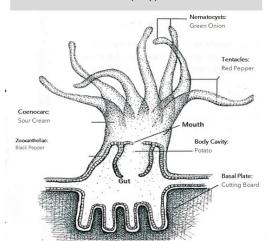
# **Edible Coral Polyp**

#### **Materials:**

- 1/2 Russet potato (baked or boiled)
- Red bell pepper slices (3-6, thinly sliced)
- Green onion (sliced or diced)
- Sour cream
- Black pepper
- Kitchen knife
- Cutting board

## **Key Terms:**

- Calyx: The skeletal cup the polyp lives inside.
- Coenocarc: Live tissue layer connecting and covering the colony's polyps.
- Nematocysts: Stinging cells.
- **Zooxanthellae:** Microscopic algae that lives inside coral polyps.





**Instructions:** 

### Adult supervision is highly recommended.

- 1. Remove the skin, and either boil or bake your potato. After it finished cooking, cut it in half width-wise to form your calyx.
- Begin by forming the mouth of the polp- use a knife or dowel to form a hole in your potato.
  Make certain it does not go all the way through.
- 3. Poke 3-6 holes around your polyp's mouth. The number depends on how many red bell pepper slices you have.
- 4. Use a knife to spread a thin layer of sour cream over your potato and your red bell pepper "tentacles." The sour cream is representing the coenocarc.
- 5. Sprinkle green onion pieces over your red pepper slices, which will act as tentacles. The green onion piece will act as nematocysts.
- 6. Insert the red pepper tentacles into the holes around the mouth of the polyp.
- 7. Sprinkle black pepper over the entire polyp to represent zooxanthellae.
- 8. ENJOY!