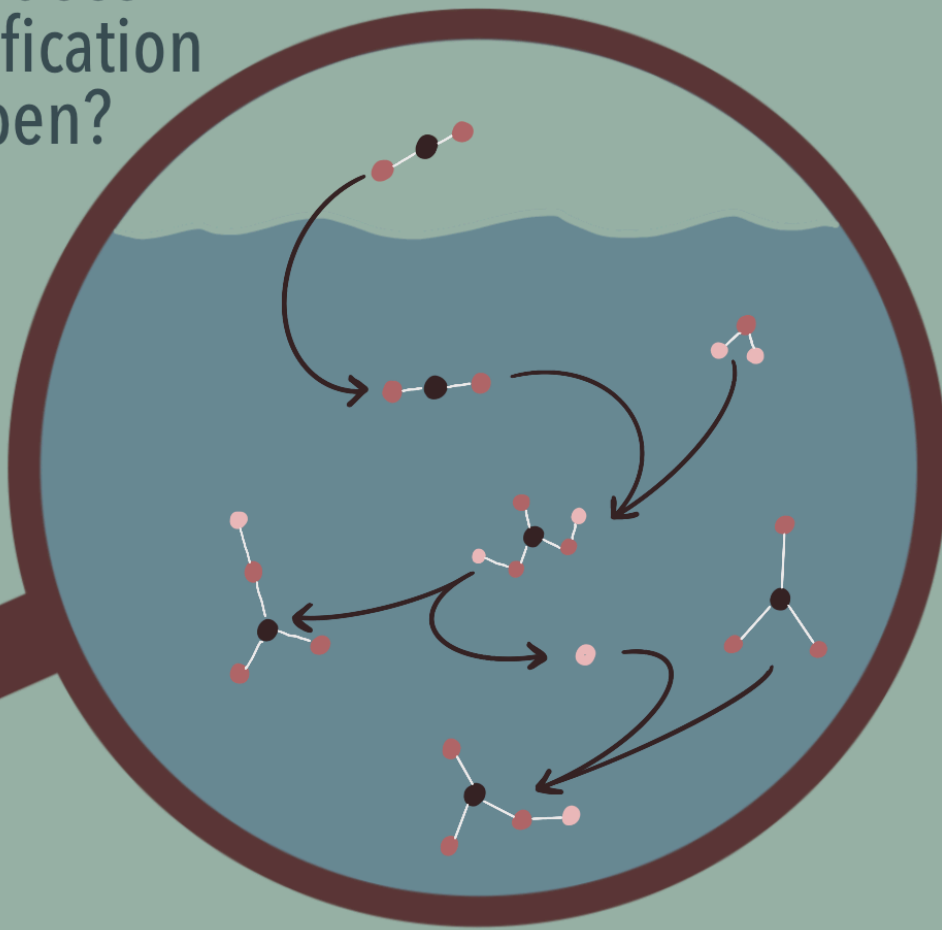


The Climate Corner

Ocean Acidification

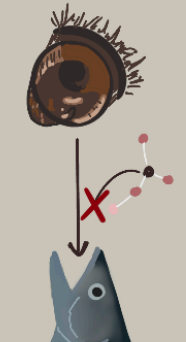
How does acidification happen?



Why are carbonates important?



Shellfish, such as oysters, need carbonates to make their calcium carbonate shells. They cannot use bicarbonates.



How does acidification affect other organisms?

Fish



Acidification can reduce the growth rates of fish

Coral



Corals cannot build their skeletons without carbonates

Crustaceans



Increased acid stops shell formation, leaving animals like crabs vulnerable to predators