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