

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION – How is sea life affected as the oceans become more acidic?

Basic information:

- More than 80% of all life on Earth is in the oceans.
- The oceans have absorbed about half of all the extra carbon dioxide people have put into the air over the last 150 years.
- All the extra CO₂ going into the oceans is making them slightly more acidic.
- More acidic oceans make it harder for sea life to build their protective shells or exoskeletons.

Activity – to demonstrate the effect of acidification on marine organisms

1. Weigh shell and record its mass: _____g.
2. Pour enough vinegar over the shell to submerge it. Record start time: _____.
3. Remove shell from cut with spoon. Record end time: _____.
4. Weigh shell again and record its final mass: _____g.
5. Calculate % change in mass: $((\text{starting-final mass}) \times 100) / \text{starting mass} =$ _____%

How would you use this activity to instruct others?
