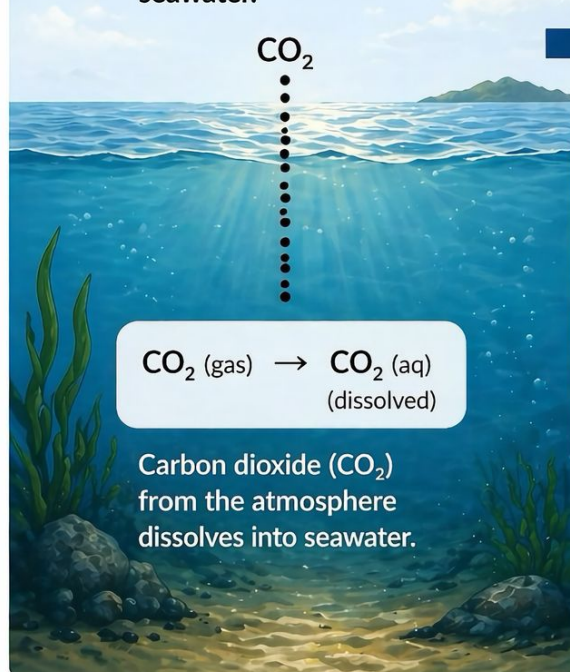


Illustration 7.3 - Ocean acidification

ILLUSTRATION 7.3 OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

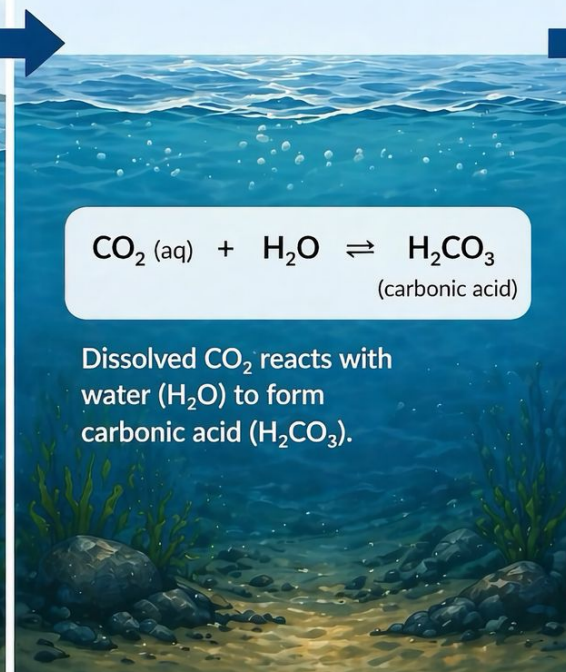
Carbon dioxide dissolving in seawater changes ocean chemistry and can make it harder for some organisms to build shells and skeletons.

- 1** Carbon dioxide from the air dissolves in seawater.

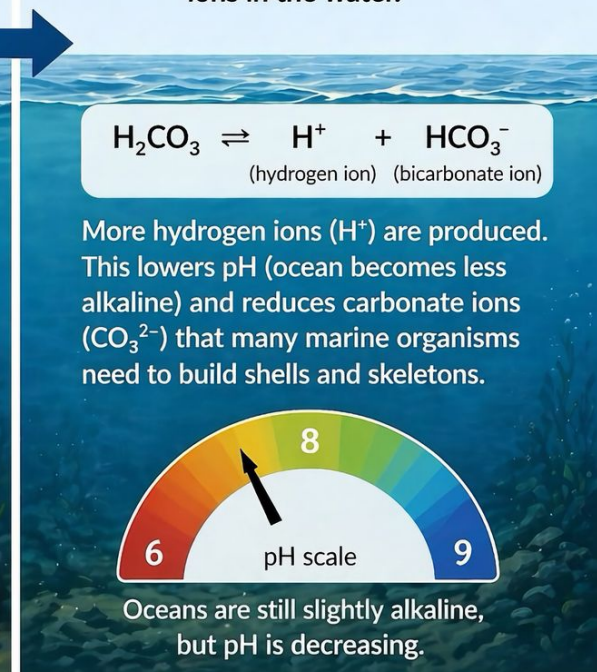


The ocean is not turning into acid. It is still slightly alkaline, but the balance of chemicals is changing.

- 2** It reacts with water to form carbonic acid.



- 3** This lowers pH and reduces carbonate ions in the water.



Some organisms that can be affected:



Corals



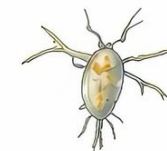
Oysters



Mussels



Snails



Plankton