The Change in Ocean pH with increasing CO₂ in the atmosphere When dissolves into the ocean it acts as a weak (di-protic) acid. As more dissolves into the ocean the pH of the ocean is pushed down (it becomes more acid) As the water becomes more acid, the Carbonate ion concentration $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ goes down This presents a problem for organisms that calcify (make shells) Important organisms that are affected by this are corals.

Adapted from Wolf-Gladrow et al., 1999