

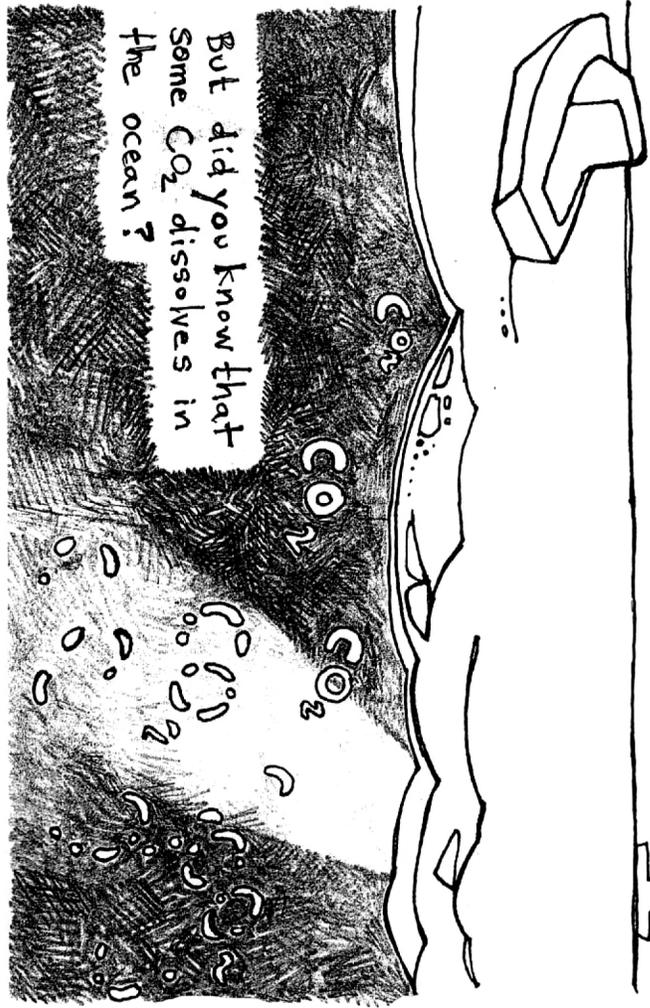
ocean ACIDIFICATION



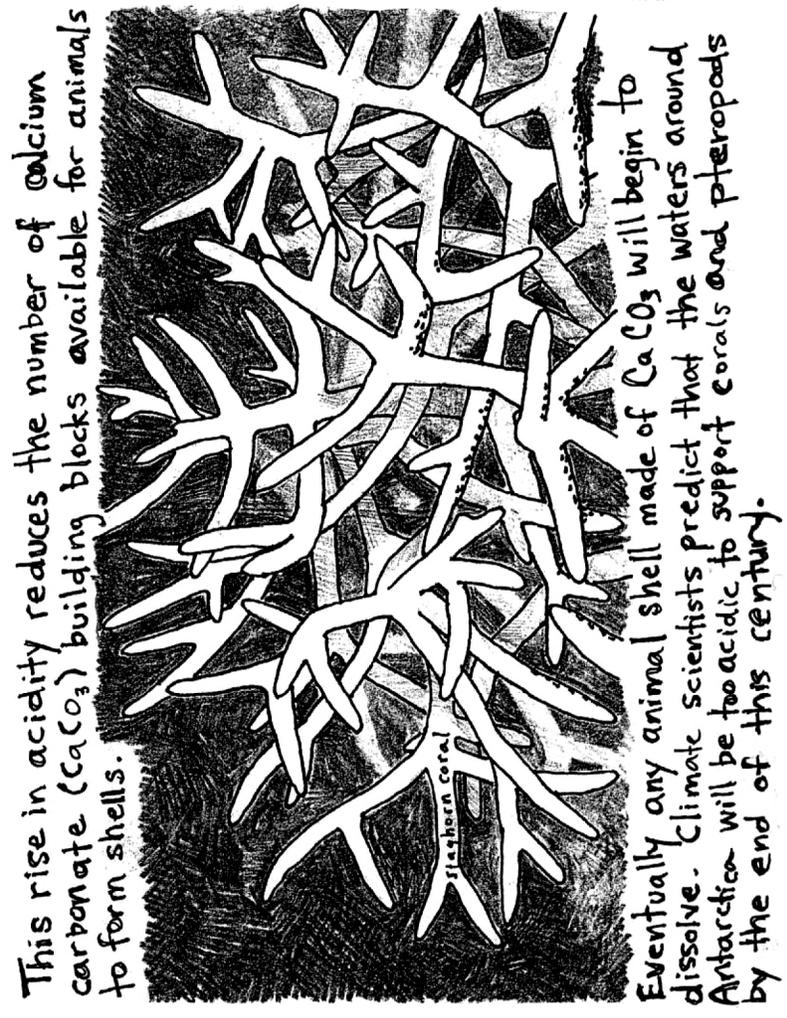
The consequences are horrific: millions of species with CaCO₃ shells or skeletons, and the species who depend on those species are predicted to go extinct.

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You might already know that the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂), causes global warming.



But did you know that some CO₂ dissolves in the ocean?



This rise in acidity reduces the number of calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) building blocks available for animals to form shells.

Eventually any animal shell made of CaCO₃ will begin to dissolve. Climate scientists predict that the waters around Antarctica will be too acidic to support corals and pteropods by the end of this century.

When CO₂ dissolves in the ocean, it produces Carbonic acid (H₂CO₃), which makes the ocean more acidic.



"Ocean acidification" has already produced a 0.1 decline in ocean surface pH (a rise in acidity of 30%).