

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION EXPERIMENT OPTION 1.

EXPERIMENT OVERVIEW:

In this experiment you will be adding a range of seashells to cups filled with either water or vinegar and leaving the shells in the liquid filled cups for three or four days.

EACH PAIR/GROUP WILL NEED:

- A pen suitable for writing on plastic cups
- 6 plastic cups
- 2 clean mussel shells (or other sea shells)
- 2 clean oyster shells (or other sea shells)
- 2 clean scallop shells (or other sea shells)
- Enough water to fill 3 of the cups
- Enough vinegar to fill 3 of the cups
- Camera (optional)

WHAT TO DO:

1. Using the pen, label the cups as follows: "mussel + water", "oyster + water", "scallop + water", "mussel + vinegar", "oyster + vinegar" and "scallop + vinegar".
2. Look closely at each shell and record how each shell feels, in particular the shiny surface inside the shell. You can take photos if you like.
3. Place the shells into the cups and add water to the water cups and vinegar to the vinegar cups, making sure that the shells are completely covered.
4. Watch the shells for 15 minutes to see if there are any changes to the shell, in particular any bubbling.
5. Examine the shells once a day for three days, taking the shells out to record any changes in appearance, texture or flexibility. You could take photographs of the shells each day so you have a visual record of any changes.