

The Calcification Challenge

The Legos represent calcium (Ca^{+2}) and carbonate (CO_3^{-2}) ions, which are the building blocks for shell material.

1 small Lego (Ca^{+2}) and 1 large Lego (CO_3^{-2}) = CaCO_3 shell.



Using the “Today’s Ocean” container, close your eyes and build as many shells as you can for 30 seconds.

Using the “Future Ocean” container, close your eyes and build as many shells as you can for 30 seconds.

Which container were you able to build more shells?

Because of ocean acidification, the “Future Ocean” contains fewer carbonate ions, making it more challenging to build shells.