

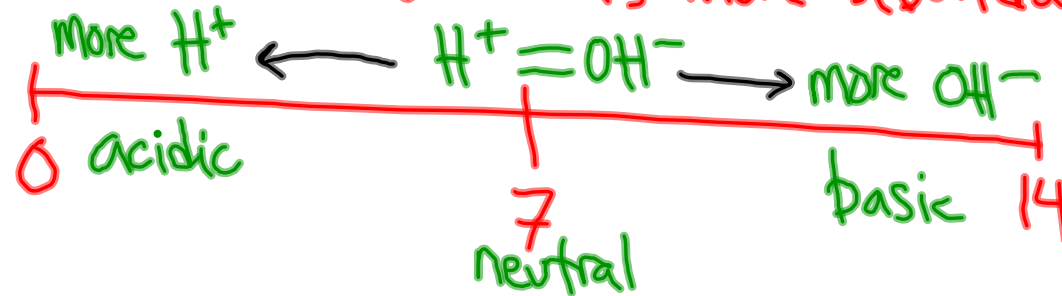
pH:

Measures the amount of hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) and hydroxide ions ( $OH^-$ ).

In water, there are always  $H^+$  and  $OH^-$ .



pH tells us which is more abundant:



Why does pH matter to living organisms?

→  $H^+$  and  $OH^-$  are very chemically reactive

→ organisms have a range of pH values in which they can function correctly

→ when you get out of an organism's ideal pH range, either: unwanted chemical reactions can occur or necessary chemical reactions can stop