

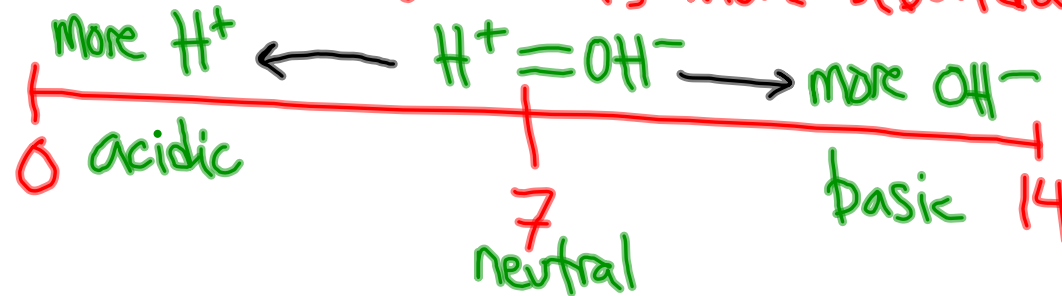
pH:

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