Creating an Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) cluster in the Azure portal involves several steps. Here is a step-by-step guide:

**Step 1: Sign in to Azure Portal**

1. Go to the [Azure Portal](https://portal.azure.com/).
2. Sign in with your Azure account credentials.

**Step 2: Create an AKS Cluster**

1. In the Azure portal, select **Create a resource** from the left-hand menu.
2. In the search bar, type "Kubernetes service" and select it from the dropdown.
3. Click **Create** to begin the AKS cluster creation process.

**Step 3: Basics Tab**

1. **Subscription**: Select the Azure subscription you want to use.
2. **Resource Group**: Create a new resource group or select an existing one.
3. **Kubernetes Cluster Name**: Enter a unique name for your AKS cluster.
4. **Region**: Select the region where you want to deploy the cluster.
5. **Kubernetes Version**: Choose the desired Kubernetes version.

**Step 4: Node Pools**

1. **Node Size**: Select the VM size for the nodes.
2. **Node Count**: Specify the initial number of nodes in the node pool.
3. (Optional) Add more node pools if needed.

**Step 5: Authentication**

1. **Authentication Method**: Choose either **System-assigned managed identity** or **Service principal** for cluster authentication.
2. (If using Service principal) **Client ID** and **Client Secret**: Enter the details of the service principal.

**Step 6: Networking**

1. **Network Configuration**: Choose between **Basic** and **Advanced** networking.
2. (If using Advanced) Configure the Virtual Network, subnet, and other networking settings.

**Step 7: Integrations**

1. **Container Monitoring**: Enable or disable Azure Monitor for containers.
2. **Azure Policy**: Enable or disable Azure Policy for the cluster.

**Step 8: Tags**

1. Add any tags you need for resource organization and management.

**Step 9: Review + Create**

1. Review all the settings you have configured.
2. Click **Create** to start the deployment of the AKS cluster.

**Step 10: Access the AKS Cluster**

1. Once the deployment is complete, go to the **Resource Group** and select your AKS cluster.
2. Use the **Connect** option to get the kubectl configuration for accessing the cluster from your local machine or Azure Cloud Shell.

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