

Acid and Base Encyclopedia Article

Acid and Base

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Contents

Acid and Base Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Acid and Base.....	3

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According to the definition used by environmental chemists, an acid is a substance that increases the **hydrogen ion** (H^+) concentration in a solution and a base is a substance that removes hydrogen ions (H^+) from a solution. In water, removal of hydrogen ions results in an increase in the hydroxide ion (OH^-) concentration. Water with a **pH** of 7.0 is neutral, while lower pH values are acidic and higher pH values are basic.