

**Chapter 3** 

**Water and Life** 

Lecture Presentations by Nicole Tunbridge and Kathleen Fitzpatrick

### The Molecule That Supports All of Life

- Water makes life possible on Earth
- Water is the only common substance to exist in the natural environment in <u>all three physical states</u> of matter
- Water's unique emergent properties help make Earth suitable for life
- The structure of the water molecule allows it to interact with other molecules

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Polar covalent

bond

Hydrogen bond

# Concept 3.1: Polar covalent bonds in water molecules result in hydrogen bonding

In the water molecule, the electrons of the polar covalent bonds spend more time near the oxygen than the hydrogen Region of partial negative charge

The water molecule is thus a polar molecule:

The overall charge is unevenly distributed

 Polarity allows water molecules to form hydrogen bonds with each other

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# Concept 3.2: Four emergent properties of water contribute to Earth's suitability for life

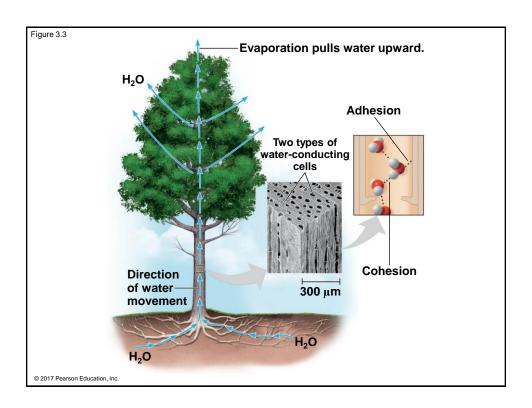
- Four of water's properties that facilitate an environment for life are
  - Cohesive behavior
  - Ability to moderate temperature
  - Expansion upon freezing
  - Versatility as a solvent

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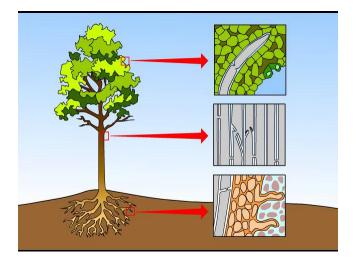
#### **Cohesion of Water Molecules**

- Collectively, hydrogen bonds hold water molecules together, a phenomenon called cohesion
- Cohesion helps the transport of water against gravity in plants
- Adhesion is an attraction between different substances, for example, between water and plant cell walls

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# **Animation: Water Transport in Plants**



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- Surface tension is a measure of how difficult it is to break the surface of a liquid
- Water has an unusually <u>high</u> surface tension due to hydrogen bonding between the molecules at the airwater interface and to the water below



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#### **Moderation of Temperature by Water**

- Water absorbs heat from warmer air and releases stored heat to cooler air
- Water can absorb or release a large amount of heat with only a slight change in its own temperature

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#### Temperature and Heat

- Kinetic energy is the energy of motion
- The kinetic energy associated with random motion of atoms or molecules is called thermal energy
- Temperature represents the <u>average</u> kinetic energy of the molecules in a body of matter
- Thermal energy in transfer from one body of matter to another is defined as heat

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- A calorie (cal) is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 g of water by 1°C
- It is also the amount of heat released when 1 g of water cools by 1°C
- The "Calories" on food packages are actually kilocalories (kcal); 1 kcal = 1,000 cal
- The joule (J) is another unit of energy;
  1 J = 0.239 cal, or 1 cal = 4.184 J

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#### Water's High Specific Heat

- The specific heat of a substance is the amount of heat that must be absorbed or lost for 1 g of that substance to change its temperature by 1°C
- The specific heat of water is 1 cal/(g °C)
- Water resists changing its temperature because of its high specific heat

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- Water's high specific heat can be traced to hydrogen bonding
  - Heat is absorbed when hydrogen bonds break
  - Heat is released when hydrogen bonds form
- The high specific heat of water minimizes temperature fluctuations to within limits that permit life
   Temperatures for the Pacific Ocean and Southern

California on an August day San Bernardino Burbank Santa Barbara 73° •100° Riverside 96° Los Angeles Santa Ana (Airport) 75° **Palm Springs** 70s (°F) 80s Pacific Ocean 68° 90s 100s San Diego 72° 40 miles

# Evaporative Cooling

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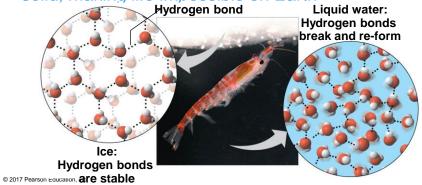
- Evaporation (or vaporization) is transformation of a substance from liquid to gas
- Heat of vaporization is the heat a liquid must absorb for 1 g to be converted to gas
- As a liquid evaporates, its remaining surface cools, a process called evaporative cooling
- Evaporative cooling of water helps stabilize temperatures in organisms and bodies of water

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#### Floating of Ice on Liquid Water

- Ice floats in liquid water because hydrogen bonds in ice are more "ordered," making ice less dense than water
- Water reaches its greatest density at 4°C

 If ice sank, all bodies of water would eventually freeze solid, making life impossible on Earth

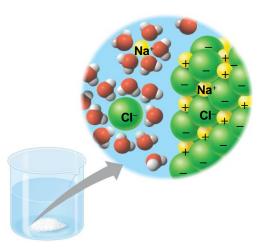


#### Water: The Solvent of Life

- A solution is a liquid that is a completely homogeneous mixture of substances
- The solvent is the dissolving agent of a solution
- The solute is the substance that is dissolved
- An aqueous solution is one in which water is the solvent

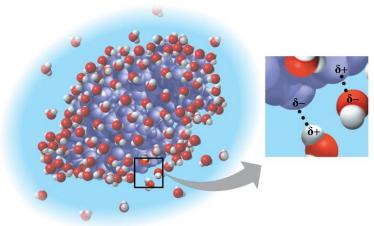
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- Water is a versatile solvent due to its polarity
- When an ionic compound is dissolved in water, each ion is surrounded by a sphere of water molecules called a hydration shell



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- Water can also dissolve compounds made of nonionic polar molecules
- Even large polar molecules such as proteins can dissolve in water if they have ionic and polar regions



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#### Hydrophilic and Hydrophobic Substances

- A hydrophilic substance is one that has an affinity for water
- A hydrophobic substance is one that <u>does not</u> have an affinity for water
- Oil molecules are hydrophobic because they have relatively nonpolar bonds
- Hydrophobic molecules related to oils are the major ingredients of *cell membranes*

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#### Solute Concentration in Aqueous Solutions

- Most chemical reactions in organisms involve solutes dissolved in water
- When carrying out experiments, we use mass to calculate the number of solute molecules in an aqueous solution

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- Molecular mass is the sum of all masses of all atoms in a molecule
- Numbers of molecules are usually measured in moles, where 1 mole (mol) = 6.02 × 10<sup>23</sup> molecules
- Avogadro's number and the unit dalton were defined such that  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$  daltons = 1 g
- Molarity (M) is the number of moles of solute per liter of solution

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#### **Possible Evolution of Life on Other Planets**

- Biologists seeking life on other planets have concentrated their search on planets that might have water
- More than 800 planets have been found outside our solar system; there is evidence that a few of them have water vapor
- In our solar system, Mars has been found to have water (ice)

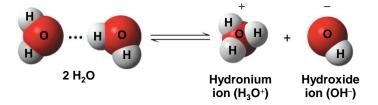
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# Concept 3.3: Acidic and basic conditions affect living organisms

- A hydrogen atom in a hydrogen bond between two water molecules can shift from one to the other
  - The hydrogen atom leaves its electron behind and is transferred as a proton, or hydrogen ion (H<sup>+</sup>)
  - The molecule that lost the proton is now a hydroxide ion (OH-)
  - The molecule with the extra proton is now a hydronium ion (H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>), though it is often represented as H<sup>+</sup>

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 Water is in a state of dynamic equilibrium in which water molecules dissociate at the same rate at which they are being reformed



- Though statistically rare, the dissociation of water molecules has a great effect on organisms
- Changes in concentrations of H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> can drastically affect the chemistry of a cell

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- Concentrations of H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> are equal in pure water
- Adding certain solutes, called acids and bases, modifies the concentrations of H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup>
- Biologists use the pH scale to describe whether a solution is acidic or basic (alkaline)

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#### **Acids and Bases**

- An acid is a substance that increases the H<sup>+</sup> concentration of a solution
- A base is a substance that reduces the H<sup>+</sup> concentration of a solution
- Strong acids and bases dissociate completely in water
- Weak acids and bases reversibly release and accept back hydrogen ions, but can still shift the balance of H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> away from neutrality

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#### The pH Scale

 In any aqueous solution at 25°C, the product of H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> concentrations is constant and can be written as

$$[H^+][OH^-] = 10^{-14}$$

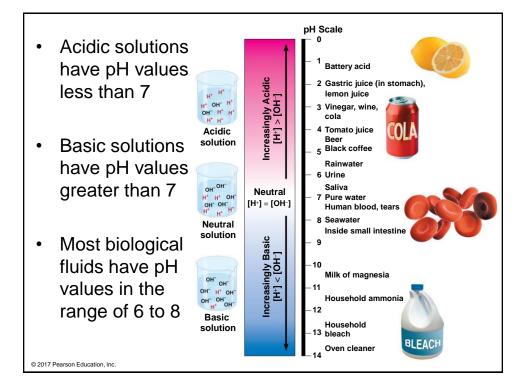
 The **pH** of a solution is defined by the negative logarithm of H<sup>+</sup> concentration, written as

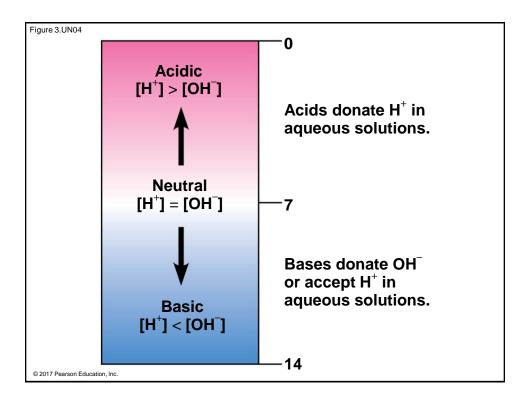
$$pH = -log[H^+]$$

 For a neutral aqueous solution, [H<sup>+</sup>] = [OH<sup>-</sup>] is 10<sup>-7</sup>, so

$$pH = -(-7) = 7$$

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#### **Buffers**

- The internal pH of most living cells is close to 7
- Buffers are substances that minimize changes in concentrations of H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> in a solution
- Most buffer solutions contain a weak acid and its corresponding base, which combine reversibly with H<sup>+</sup> ions

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## End of chapter 2

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# **Class activity**

- What would be the effect on the properties of the water molecule if oxygen and hydrogen had equal electronegativity?
- If water cannot form hydrogen bonds, what will happen to the shrimp's habitat shown in the previous slide?

## **Class activity**

• If water is a universal solvent. What are the consequences for life?

# **Class activity**

- Compared with a basic solution at pH 9, the same volume of acidic solution at pH 4 has .....times as many H+ ions.
- HCl is a strong acid that dissociates in water. HCl → H<sup>+</sup> + Cl<sup>-</sup>. What is the pH of 0.01 M HCl?