

LECTURE PRESENTATIONS

For CAMPBELL BIOLOGY, NINTH EDITION

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Chapter 3

Water and Life



Lectures by
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Overview: The Molecule That Supports All of Life

- Water is the biological medium on Earth
- All living organisms require water more than any other substance
- Most cells are surrounded by water, and cells themselves are about 70–95% water
- The abundance of water is the main reason the Earth is habitable

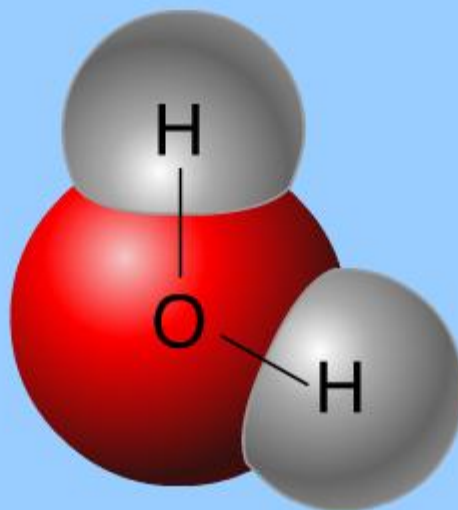
Figure 3.1



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

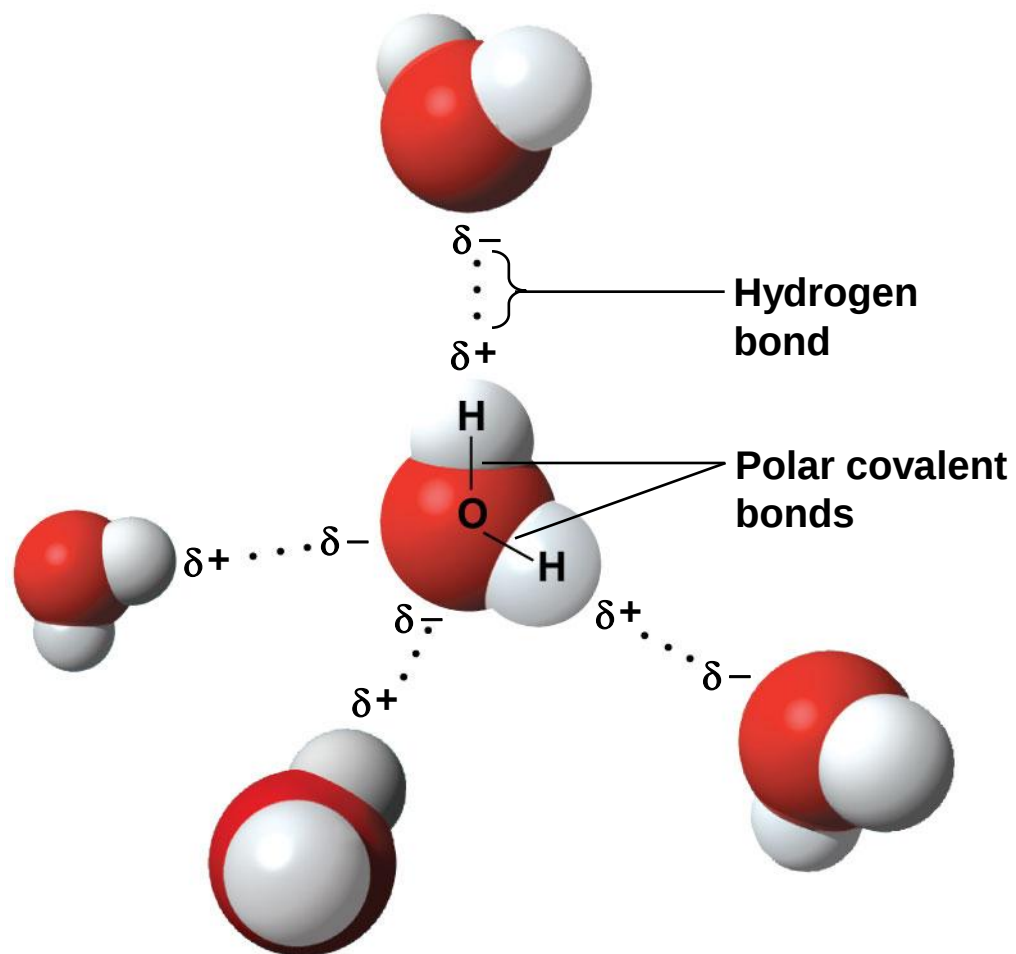
- The water molecule is a **polar molecule**: the opposite ends have opposite charges
- Polarity allows water molecules to form hydrogen bonds with each other



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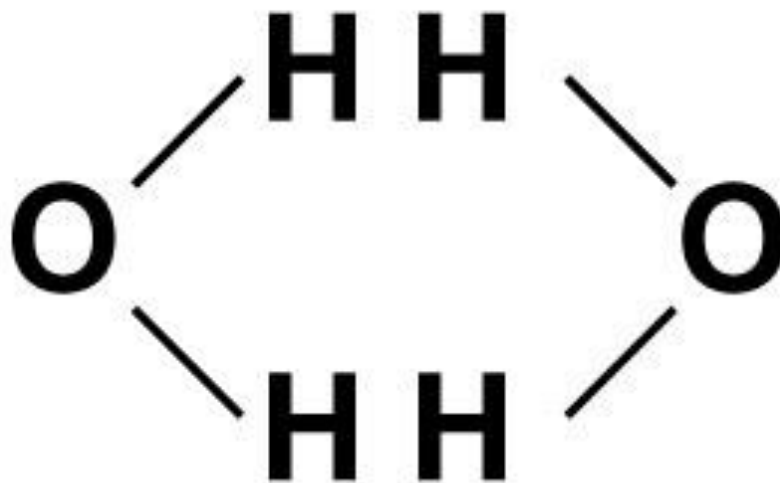
Animation: Water Structure
Right-click slide/select "Play"

Figure 3.2



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Figure 3.UN01



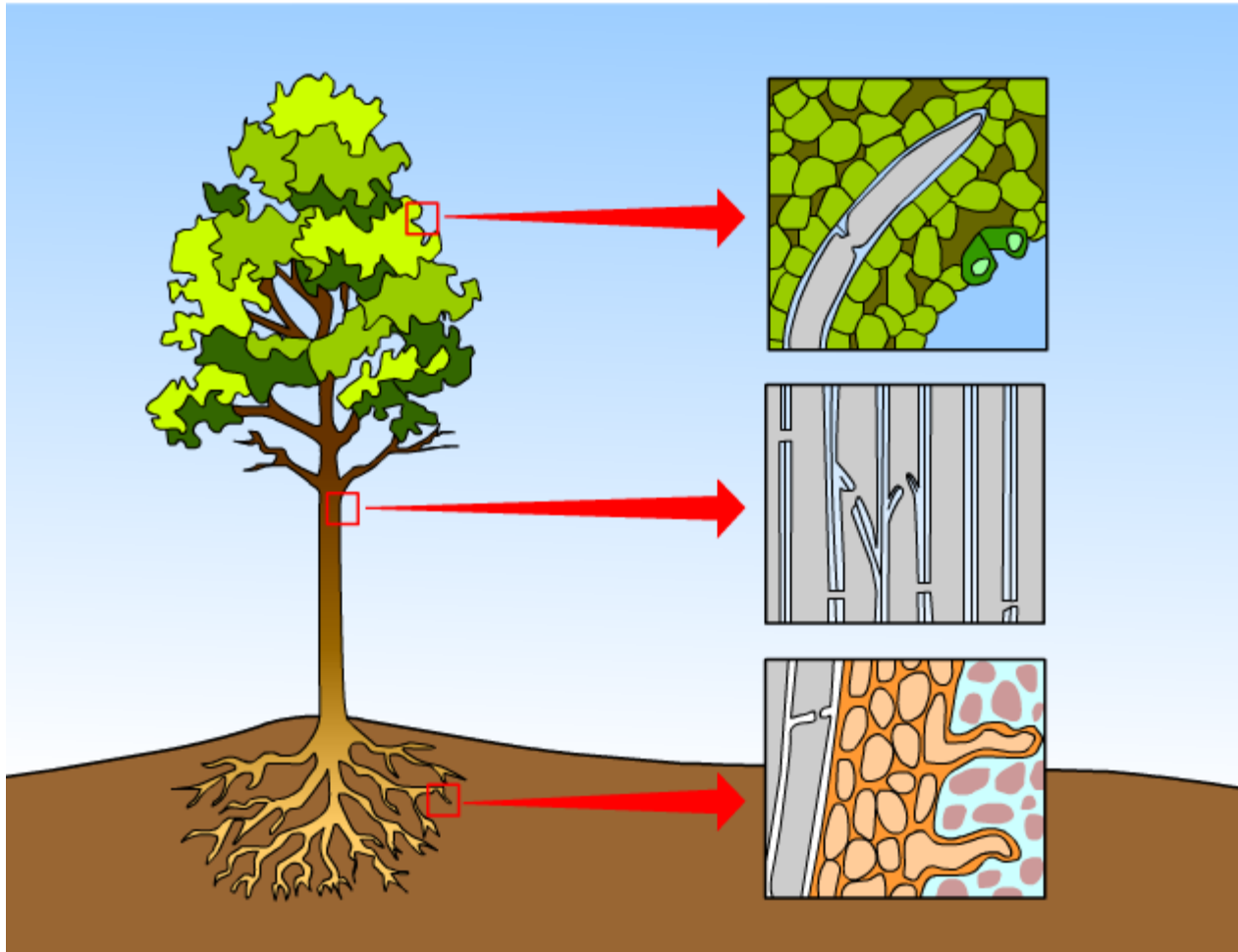
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Concept 3.2: Four emergent properties of water contribute to Earth's suitability for life

- 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

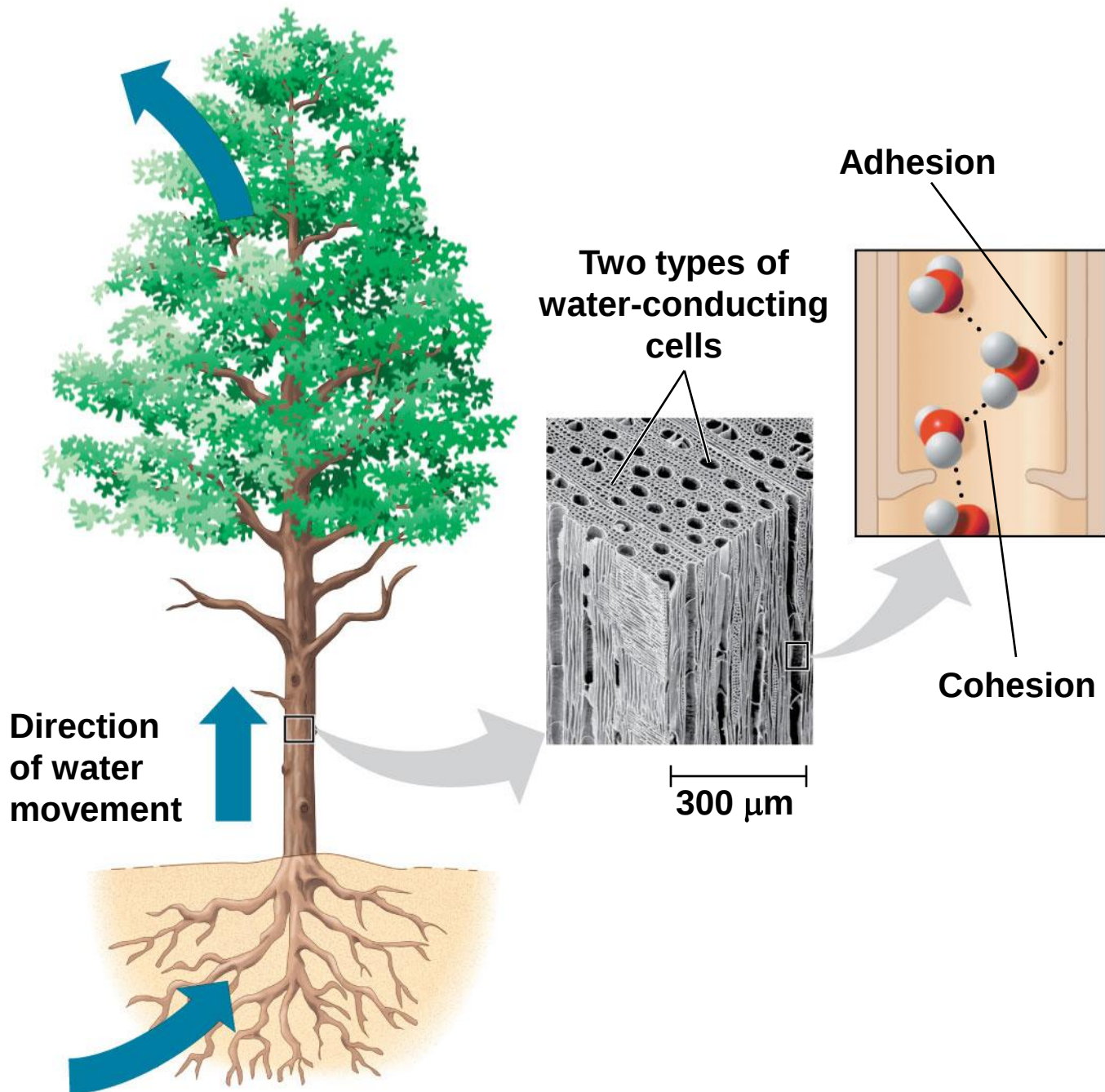
Cohesion of Water Molecules

- 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

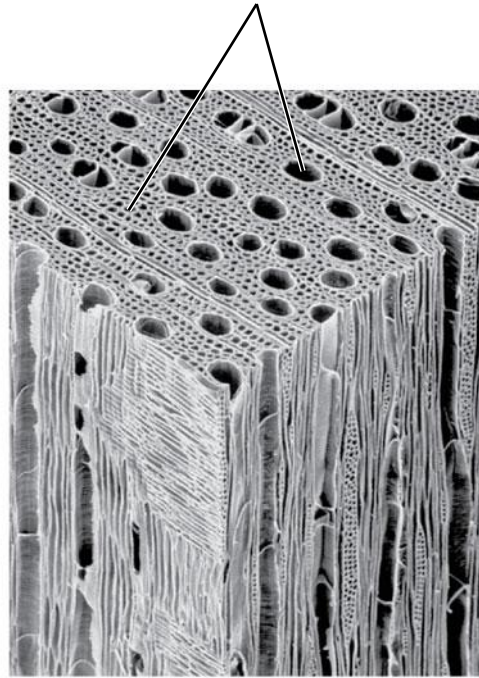


Animation: Water Transport
Right-click slide/select "Play"

Figure 3.3



Two types of water-conducting cells



300 μm

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- **Surface tension** is a measure of how hard it is to break the surface of a liquid
- Surface tension is related to cohesion

Figure 3.4



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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

Heat and Temperature

- **Kinetic energy** is the energy of motion
- **Heat** is a measure of the total amount of kinetic energy due to molecular motion
- **Temperature** measures the intensity of heat due to the average kinetic energy of molecules

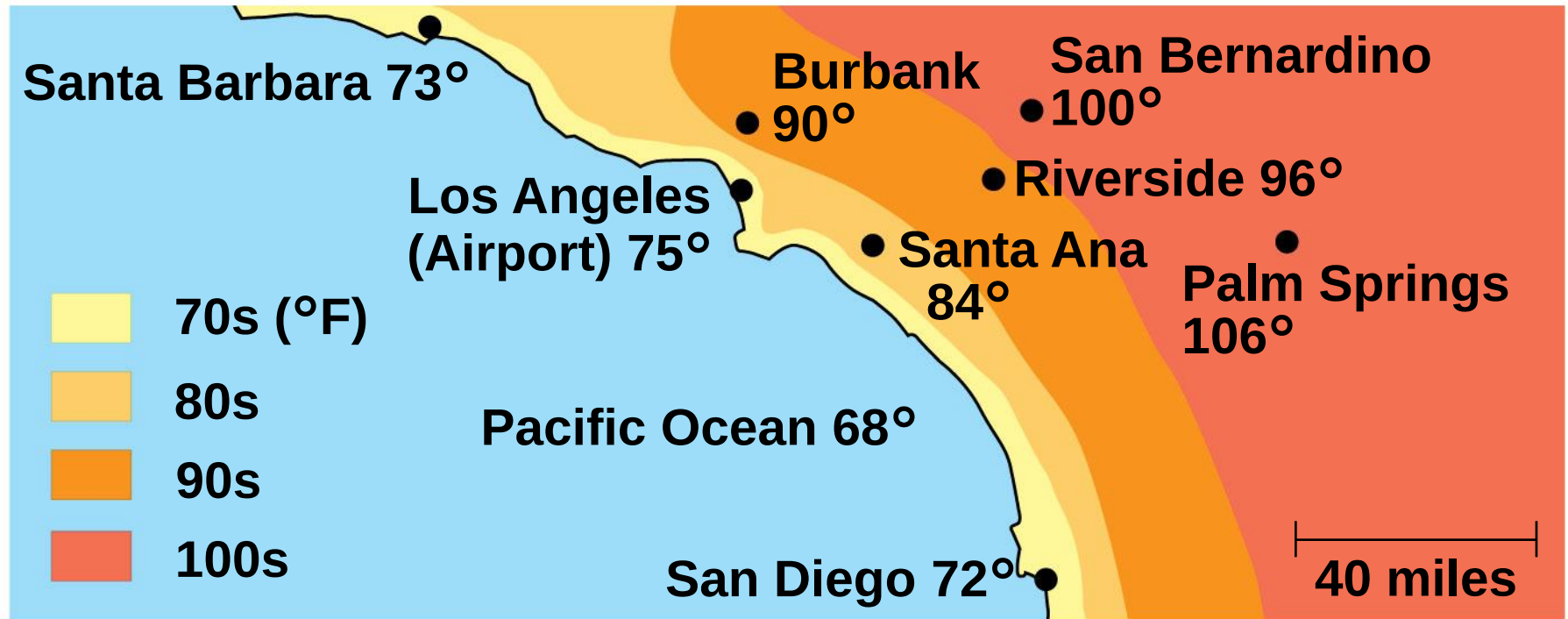
- The **Celsius scale** is a measure of temperature using Celsius degrees ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- A **calorie (cal)** is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 g of water by 1°C
- The “calories” on food packages are actually **kilocalories (kcal)**, where $1 \text{ kcal} = 1,000 \text{ cal}$
- The **joule (J)** is another unit of energy where $1 \text{ J} = 0.239 \text{ cal}$, or $1 \text{ cal} = 4.184 \text{ J}$

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

- 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

Figure 3.5



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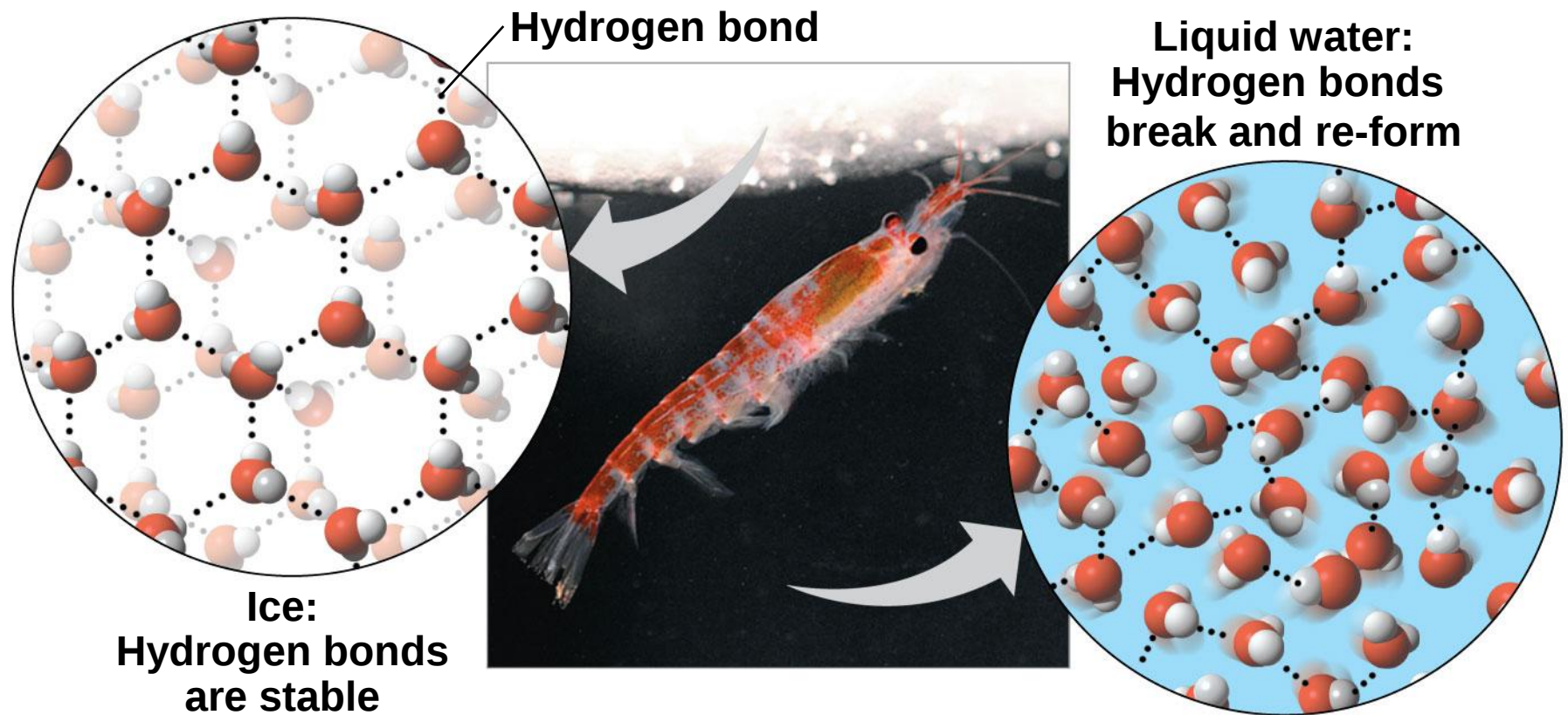
Evaporative Cooling

- Evaporation 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

Floating of Ice on Liquid Water

- Ice floats in liquid water because hydrogen bonds in ice are more “ordered,” making ice less dense
- Water reaches its greatest density at 4°C
- If ice sank, all bodies of water would eventually freeze solid, making life impossible on Earth

Figure 3.6



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Figure 3.6a



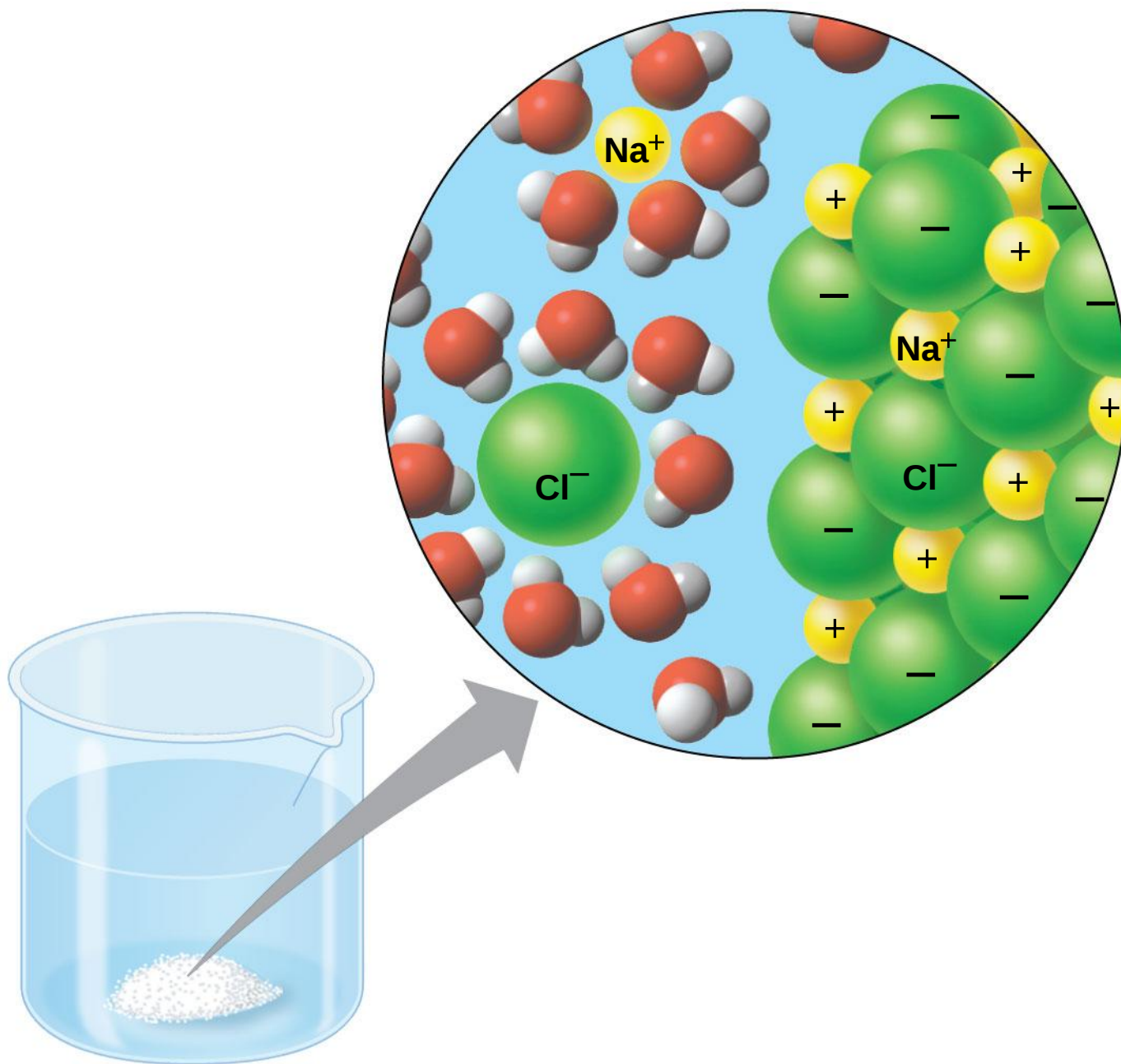
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Water: The Solvent of Life

- A **solution** is a liquid that is a homogeneous mixture of substances
- A **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

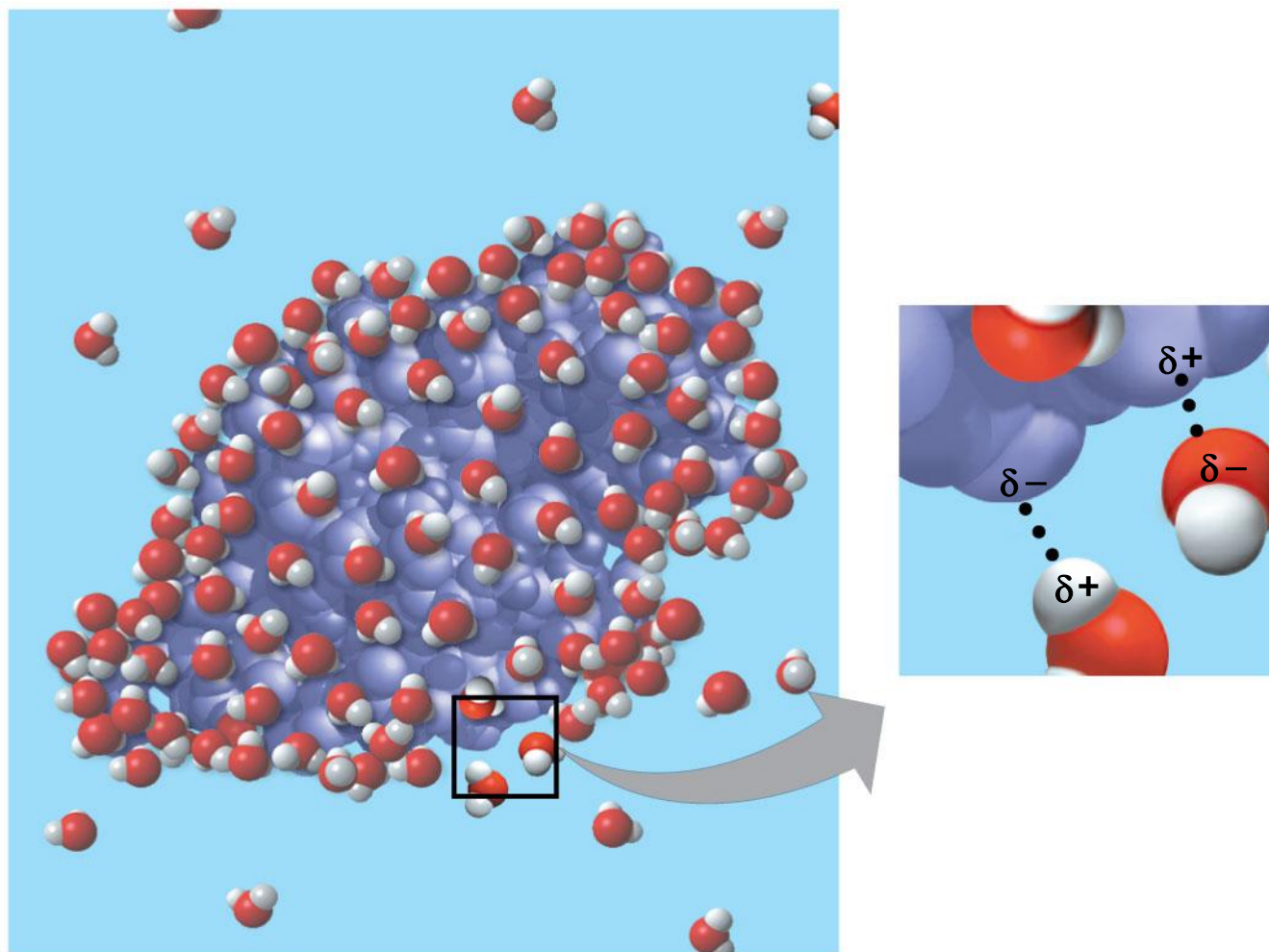
- Water is a versatile solvent due to its polarity, which allows it to form hydrogen bonds easily
- When an ionic compound is dissolved in water, each ion is surrounded by a sphere of water molecules called a **hydration shell**

Figure 3.7



- 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

Figure 3.8



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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 does not have an affinity for water
- Oil molecules are hydrophobic because they have relatively nonpolar bonds
- A **colloid** is a stable suspension of fine particles in a liquid

Solute Concentration in Aqueous Solutions

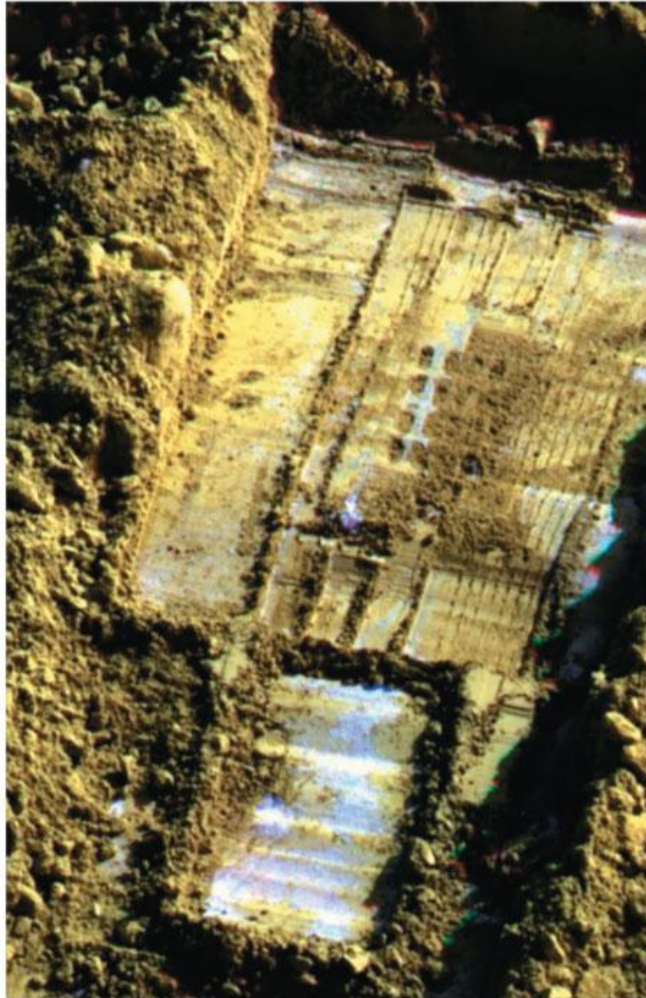
- Most biochemical reactions occur in water
- Chemical reactions depend on collisions of molecules and therefore on the concentration of solutes in an aqueous solution

- **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^{23} molecules
- Avogadro's number and the unit *dalton* were defined such that 6.02×10^{23} daltons = 1 g
- **Molarity (*M*)** is the number of moles of solute per liter of solution

Possible Evolution of Life on Other Planets with Water

- The remarkable properties of water support life on Earth in many ways
- Astrobiologists seeking life on other planets are concentrating their search on planets with water
- To date, more than 200 planets have been found outside our solar system; one or two of them contain water
- In our solar system, Mars has been found to have water

Figure 3.9



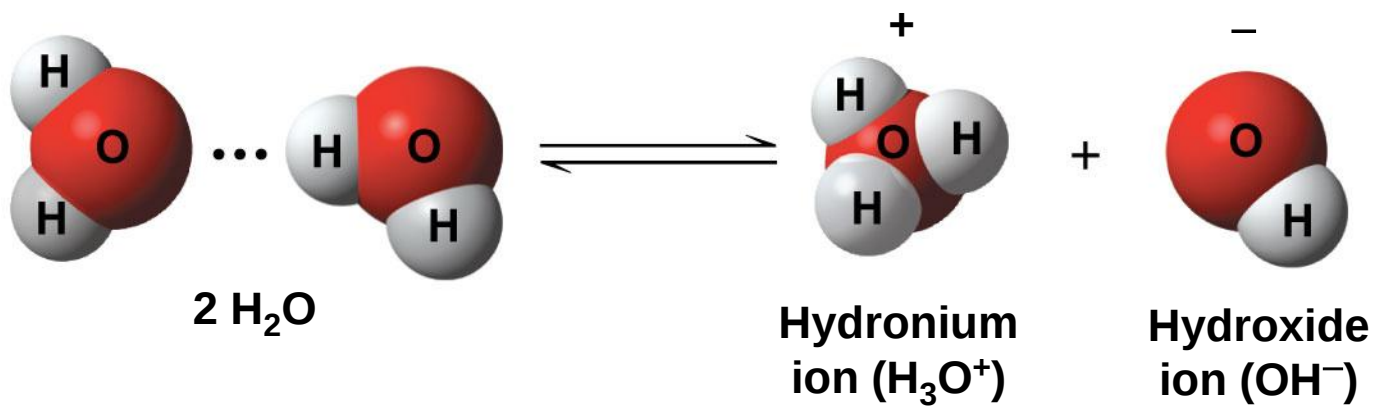
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Concept 3.3: Acidic and basic conditions affect living organisms

- 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^+)
 - The molecule with the extra proton is now a **hydronium ion** (H_3O^+), though it is often represented as H^+
 - The molecule that lost the proton is now a **hydroxide ion** (OH^-)

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

Figure 3.UN02



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

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

Acids and Bases

- An **acid** is any substance that increases the H^+ concentration of a solution
- A **base** is any substance that reduces the H^+ concentration of a solution

The pH Scale

- In any aqueous solution at 25°C the product of H^+ and OH^- is constant and can be written as

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

- The **pH** of a solution is defined by the negative logarithm of H^+ concentration, written as

$$\text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}^+]$$

- For a neutral aqueous solution, $[\text{H}^+]$ is 10^{-7} , so

$$\text{pH} = -(-7) = 7$$

- Acidic solutions have pH values less than 7
- Basic solutions have pH values greater than 7
- Most biological fluids have pH values in the range of 6 to 8

Figure 3.10

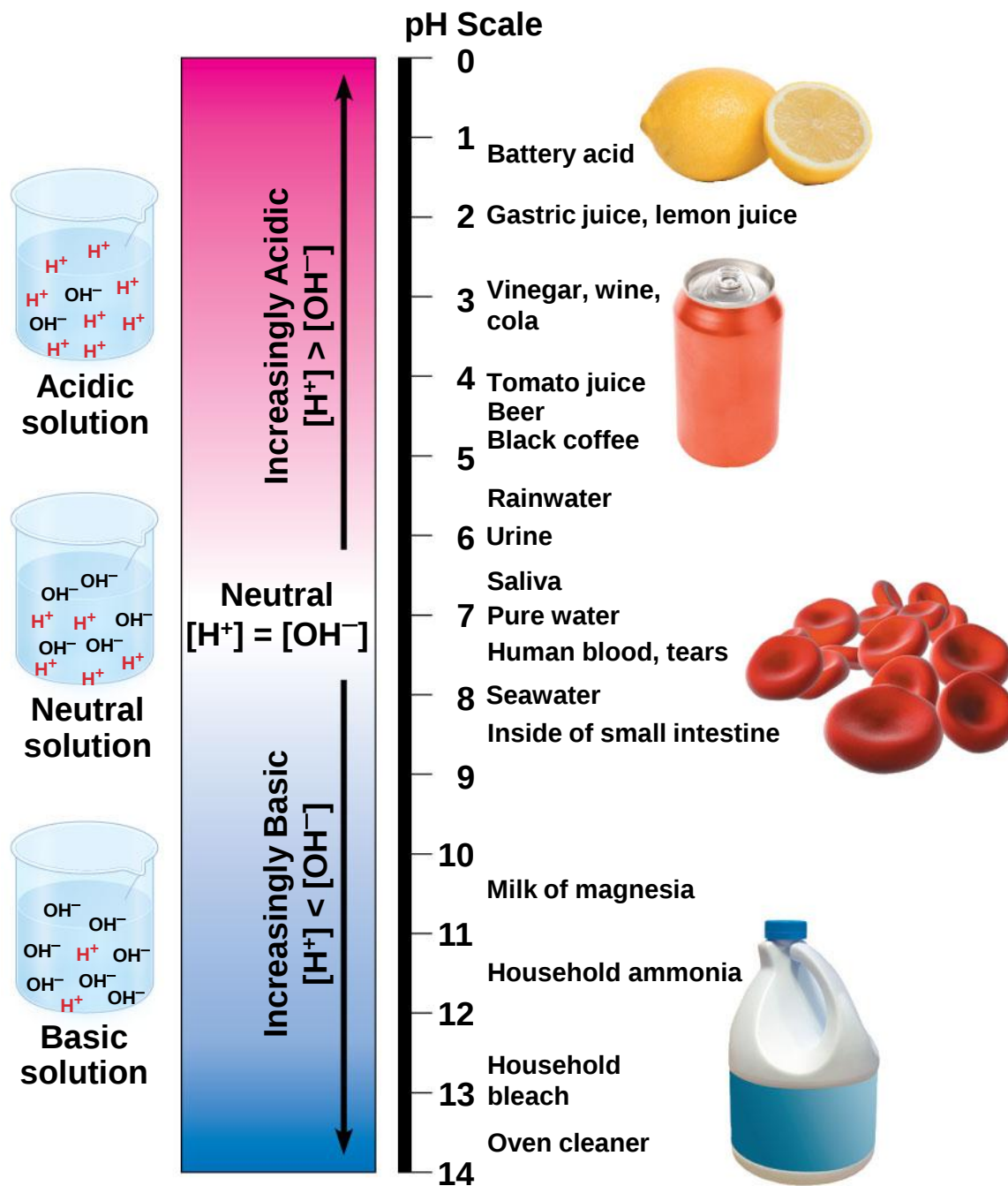


Figure 3.10a



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Figure 3.10b



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Figure 3.10c



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Figure 3.10d



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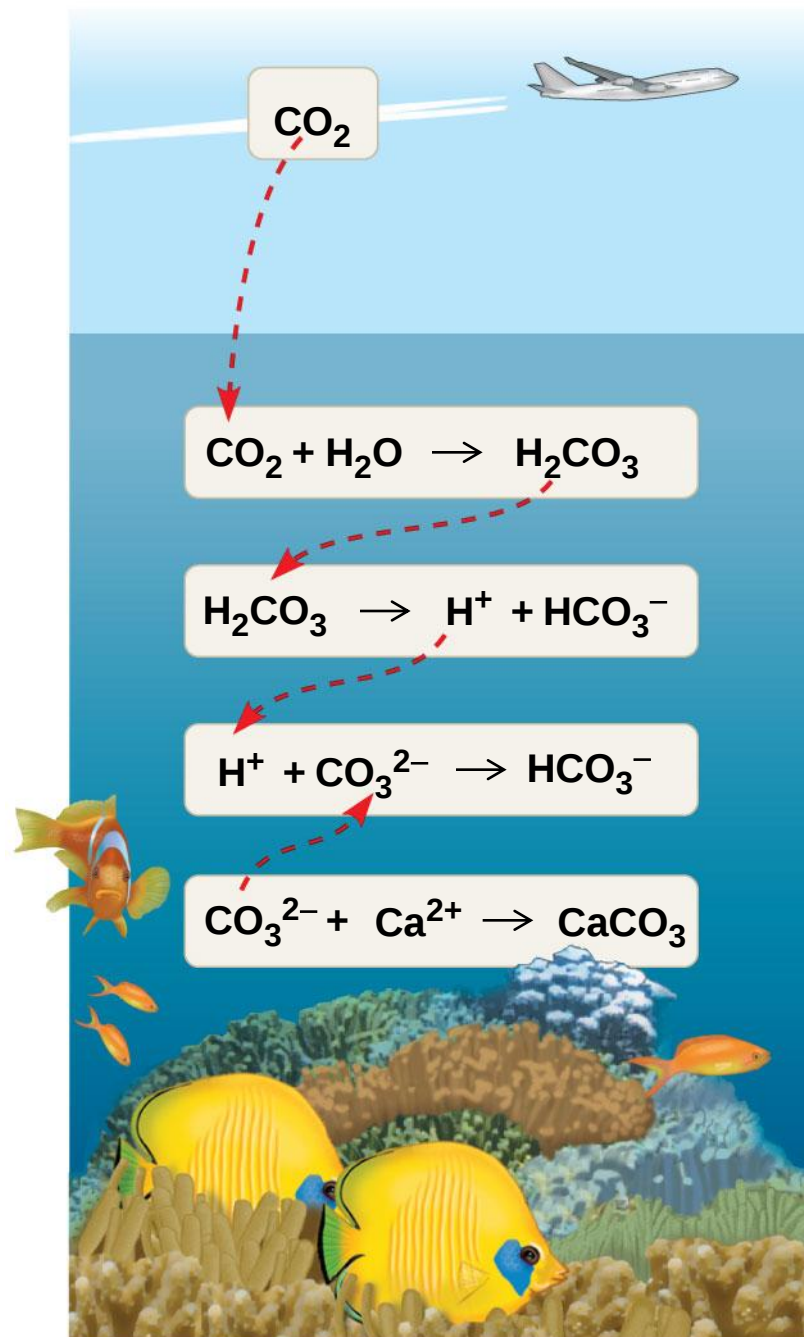
Buffers

- The internal pH of most living cells must remain close to pH 7
- **Buffers** are substances that minimize changes in concentrations of H^+ and OH^- in a solution
- Most buffers consist of an acid-base pair that reversibly combines with H^+

Acidification: A Threat to Water Quality

- Human activities such as burning fossil fuels threaten water quality
- CO₂ is the main product of fossil fuel combustion
- About 25% of human-generated CO₂ is absorbed by the oceans
- CO₂ dissolved in sea water forms carbonic acid; this process is called **ocean acidification**

Figure 3.11



- As seawater acidifies, H^+ ions combine with carbonate ions to produce bicarbonate
- Carbonate is required for calcification (production of calcium carbonate) by many marine organisms, including reef-building corals

Figure 3.12



(a)

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(b)



(c)

Figure 3.12a



(a)

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Figure 3.12b



(b)

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Figure 3.12c



(c)

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- The burning of fossil fuels is also a major source of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides
- These compounds react with water in the air to form strong acids that fall in rain or snow
- **Acid precipitation** is rain, fog, or snow with a pH lower than 5.2
- Acid precipitation damages life in lakes and streams and changes soil chemistry on land