

Laboratory 4 – Measuring pH



Purpose: To determine the pH of some unknown solutions using pH paper and a pH probe.

Materials:

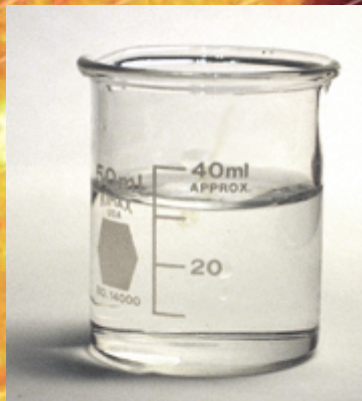
pH Probe

pH Paper

Plastic Cups

Six unknowns

Rinse water.



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Procedure:



1. Take the six small plastic cups that are labeled 1 through 6 and fill each cup about halfway with a sample of each unknown substance.
2. Obtain six small strips of pH paper.
3. Measure the pH of each unknown using pH paper by dipping the pH paper into the sample and then placing it on the sheet of white paper. Record results..

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Procedure:



4. Fill the large cup labeled “Rinse” with tap water.
5. Measure the pH of each unknown using the pH Probe. Rinse the probe in the rinse water between each reading. Record results. Store the probe with the cap in place when finished.
5. Dump the liquid from the samples in the waste beaker.

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Procedure:

6. Dump the rinse water in a sink.
7. Throw all used pH paper and white paper in the trash.



Data Table

Unknown	pH with pH paper	pH with pH probe	Acid or Base?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Analysis Questions

1. Which unknowns were basic? Which were acidic?
2. Obtain the list of the unknowns from your teacher. Do you notice anything about the things that are acidic?
3. What are some situations where pH measurements may be important?