



NATURE AT HOME

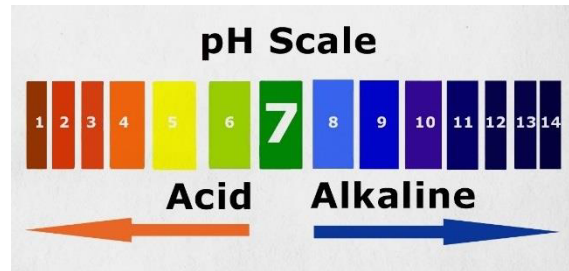
We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



Watershed Explorations: pH Testing Basics

View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

When looking at the water chemistry in ponds and springs, one of the critical tests is to look at the pH. pH is a measure of how alkaline or acid the water is. It's important because living things like pH in the middle, or "neutral". The pH scale goes from 0 – 14.



Pure water has a pH of 7. Organisms normally want the water they live in to be between 6.5 – 7.5.



The most acidic substances have a pH of 0. Vinegar has a pH of 2. Some sodas that you drink have pH's between 2-4.



The most alkaline substances have a pH of 14. Liquid drain cleaner is very alkaline with a pH of 14.



If the pond water pH is outside the middle range of 6.5-7.5, then there is some sort of pollution going on. This will make it hard for organisms to live in the ponds. If we get acidic properties below 6 they can harm organisms. When you get above an 8, it's a different type of chemical process, but it still can harm organisms. In any environment with water, we want to make sure it's ideally between 6.5 – 7.5 so organisms can live in it.

If you have any questions, e-mail: Education@DishmanHills.org