Characteristics of Acids & Bases

- acids & bases are both ionic compounds dissolved in water
 - > both ionic = both electrolytes (conduct elec)
- Arrhenius theory (Swedish scientist Arrhenius (1859-1927)

ARRHENIUS THEORY

an ACID is any compound that produces hydrogen ions, H⁺(aq), in water a BASE is any compound that produces hydroxide ions, OH⁻(aq), in water

ex. $HCl(g) \rightarrow H^{+}(aq) + Cl^{-}(aq)$ ACID NaOH(s) $\rightarrow Na^{+}(aq) + OH^{-}(aq)$ BASE

To simplify,

- ACIDS = ionic compounds that **begin with** "H"
- **BASES** = ionic compounds that **end in "OH"**
- **SALTS** = all **other** ionic compounds

NOTE: Organic acids have formulas that end in "COOH" - do not confuse these with bases!

• when an acid and a base a mixed, a neutralization reaction occurs

ACID + BASE \rightarrow SALT + WATER

ex. Write the neutralization reaction between H_3PO_4 and $Ca(OH)_2$.

 $3Ca(OH)_2 + 2H_3PO_4 \rightarrow Ca_3(PO_4)_2 + 6H_2O$

<u>Properties of ACIDS</u> (due to presence of H⁺):

- > taste sour
- > conduct an electric current
- > turn litmus paper **red**
- > produce hydrogen when reacted with certain metals
- > neutralized by bases

<u>Properties of BASES</u> (due to presence of OH⁻):

- > taste bitter
- > conduct an electric current
- > turn litmus paper **blue**
- > feel slippery
- > neutralized by acids

- when an acid is dissolved in water, it produces a hydrogen ion or proton, H⁺(aq)
 - > protons do not exist on their own in water, but rather attach themselves to water molecules to produce hydronium ions or hydrated protons, H_3O^+





> to show that hydronium ions are produced when an acid ionizes . . .

$$HCl(g) \rightarrow H^{+}(aq) + Cl^{-}(aq)$$

can be written as

 $HCl(g) + H_2O(l) \rightarrow H_3O^+(aq) + Cl^-(aq)$



> the second equation results from adding H_2O on both sides of the first equation, but on the product side, the added H_2O combines with H⁺ to form H_3O^+